

Memorandum

Date: For issue Thursday January 8, 2015

To: Extended Leadership Teams including LMC; all Medical Staff

From: Dr. Bruce Long, CST Chief Medical Information Officer, VCH/PHC
Dr. Alain Gagnon, CST Chief Medical Information Officer, PHSA

Re: **Provider Documentation Decision Update**

The aims of the Clinical & Systems Transformation (CST) project include successfully establishing new standardized clinical best practices, implementing a shared clinical information system and achieving HIMSS Level 5 (see summary on page 2).

Provider documentation (structured electronic charting) is not included in HIMSS Level 5. We do have scope to develop a limited set of provider documentation templates in order to do some of the ground work required for moving to HIMSS Level 6 in the future.

Over the last several months, CST's Executive Steering Committee has been looking at the best approach for us to utilize our provider documentation scope. The focus has been on finding the solution that will best serve providers (physicians, midwives, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and dentists) within VCH, PHSA and PHC.

The decision about provider documentation

The scope includes the development of 45 provider documentation templates. There are provider documentation templates available to us (called 'starter' templates), however these are not specific enough to satisfy the needs of all specialties and would need significant modifications.

Having established that the 'starter' templates would not meet our needs, the Executive Steering Committee looked at what would deliver the best value. They agreed on a focused approach, using up to 45 templates to develop comprehensive provider documentation for use in adult and pediatric emergency departments across VCH, PHSA and PHC.

They chose emergency because of the high volumes and the immediate nature of the work in these departments. We know that emergency departments have limited capacity to accommodate any operational slow-downs caused by new workflows. In addition, provider documentation is currently done electronically at some emergency departments, including St. Paul's Hospital and Lions Gate Hospital.

Provider documentation templates for other areas will not be developed as part of the current CST project, at this time.

Why is this decision only being made now?

The Executive Steering Committee needed time to look at the approach and examine the 'starter' templates, to determine whether they were fit for purpose. Our focus is on getting the best quality product we can for healthcare providers and patients, within the scope of the project.

We are committed to ensuring that the 45 templates that are in scope will be of high quality, genuinely useful, and a solid basis for any future work on provider documentation.

What does this mean for other areas and when will they get provider documentation?

Providers in areas without electronic provider documentation will continue to document on paper. Within the scope of CST, Health Information Management (HIM) is working on a solution to scan all paper records so they can be available electronically. We also know that many providers will dictate the majority of their admission, consultation, operative and discharge notes. These will appear in the shared clinical information system within one to two days. Where providers outside of emergency departments are using electronic documentation at present, we will identify them and develop a plan of approach so their needs can be addressed.

We recognize the importance of this work and our three Health Organizations have expressed a strong desire to expand the use of provider documentation in the future.

Provider documentation scope for ambulatory and oncology areas is currently being discussed as part of the contract negotiations for CST's Extended Ambulatory and Oncology work, due to begin in the second half of 2015.

Summary of HIMSS Levels

HIMSS Level 5 functionality includes: electronic nursing and allied health documentation; computerized provider order entry (CPOE); and closed loop medication management.

HIMSS Level 6 and 7 functionality includes: more comprehensive documentation (including provider documentation) that allows for more in-depth analytics; more advanced clinical decision support; more integrated radiology, PACS and biomedical device integration; and advanced data warehouse integration.

For more information

Please contact the CMIO for your organization, listed below:

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