

Faster, clearer, safer orders

Does this say Avandia or Coumadin?

“You could pull up multiple examples of errors caused by illegible handwriting,” says Dr. Alain Gagnon.

CST will counter this problem by implementing computerized provider order entry (CPOE). “Essentially, that means that providers (physicians, midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical pharmacists and dentists) will enter their orders electronically rather than writing them on paper and having them transcribed,” explains Dr. Gagnon.

As a result, pharmacists, technicians, nurses and other clinicians will be able to:

- Receive the order immediately
- Read the order clearly; and
- Receive orders from providers located anywhere, even off-site.

“It will expedite processing,” states Dr. Gagnon. “The time from ordering a medication to administering will be greatly decreased. Lab tests too – it won’t cut wait lists, but it will decrease processing time, meaning that you can get urgent requests through quicker. We can also increase patient safety by introducing checks and balances at the point of order entry, rather than relying on checks that come later. Such tools allow you to rely less on your recollection of events, and you can use your brain for other things.”

For many common diagnoses, providers will be able to use pre-approved order sets. “Using order sets makes entering orders into the computer easier,” says Dr. Gagnon. “It allows you to pre-select from a catalogue of key things, making it faster to use CPOE. It also enables standardization, such as reminders to order a certain test, or even making a test mandatory. There are many examples of improvements that come from standardization, but an example from my own field (although this was not using CPOE) was that we decreased severe adverse maternal outcomes from pre-eclampsia from 3.1% to 1.9% by using standardized order sets for the condition.”

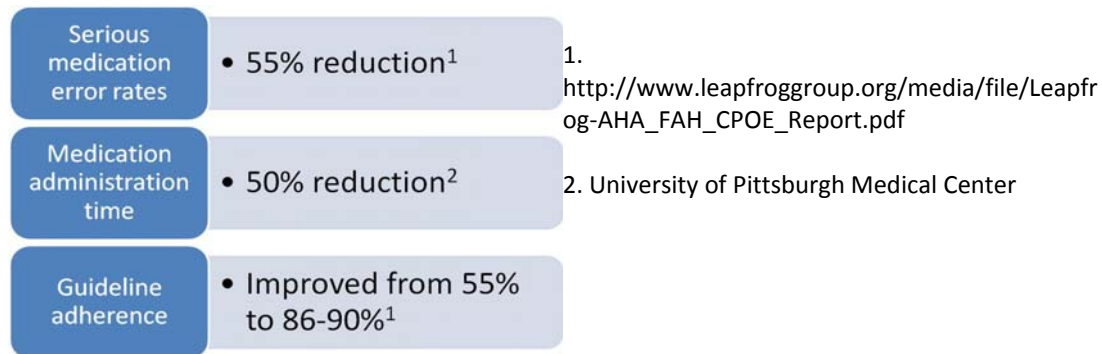


Dr. Alain Gagnon is CST Chief Medical Information Officer, PHSA

Order sets can be tweaked to suit the individual needs of a patient, and you can save these amended sets as 'favourites' to use again.

Did you know?

Studies of computerized provider order entry (CPOE) have shown:



Background information

The Clinical and Systems Transformation project is a joint initiative of three health organizations: Vancouver Coastal Health, Provincial Health Services Authority and Providence Health Care. The project is designed to transform health care delivery systems and processes to improve the safety, quality and consistency of the patient and caregiver experience. CST will support the health organizations in establishing common clinical and process standards, including work flows, order sets, clinical guidelines integrated plans of care and a common electronic health record. This clinical transformation will be supported by the implementation of a clinical information system that will replace aging existing systems. The project will be implemented in stages across the health organizations.

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