CST and the Journey to Automatic Interdisciplinary Plans of Care

CST’s Quality and Professional Practice Advisory Group has selected an initial 25 Interdisciplinary Plans of Care (IPOCs), from more than 1,200 that exist today across VCH, PHSA and PHC, for inclusion in the new clinical information system.

This was a major collaborative achievement between VCH, PHSA and PHC. It was spearheaded by the Professional Practice leads Rosa Hart, Alison Swalwell-Franks and Lorraine Blackburn.

These plans are important because they help to coordinate care by ensuring the entire interdisciplinary team understands specific problems or clinical conditions pertaining to the patient.

“The new clinical information system will automatically suggest screening questions to ask the patient on admission and a plan of care may be suggested following this action. The care team can then choose to implement the plan of care and customize it if necessary,” explains Rosa Hart, who is currently supporting the CST Clinical Documentation design team. “At the moment we do not have an automated process for plans of care and this move to an electronic model will help increase efficiency and consistency, and subsequently provide safer patient care.”
“The process included assessing the plans against set criteria, including: a quality rating, alignment with best practice and adherence to Ministry of Health requirements. The degree of overlap between the Health Organizations was also a major consideration and we ultimately chose the plans that represented the greatest impact for our efforts,” says Rosa.

This is just the first step. The Clinical Documentation design team is now working with content experts, from groups across VCH, PHSA and PHC, to establish a working group for each identified Interdisciplinary Plan of Care. More plans will be identified for inclusion in the future. Christine Jerrett, the Clinical Documentation Design Team Manager for the CST project, says the biggest challenge now is transitioning to a new way of thinking.

“We need to work out how to do what we currently do in an electronic system including how to best utilize the new functionality at our disposal.”

**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 healthcare delivery systems and processes to improve the 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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