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1. **Health Canada Warning regarding ESA's**

We would like to alert prescribers to the new Health Canada warning, subsequent to the FDA warning.

There are on-going concerns about side effects and higher incidences of mortality in patients on erythropoietics (erythropoietin and darbepoetin), as reported in recent studies. Health Canada has now issued an official warning.

Key Issues:

Prescribers of erythropoietics should be aware of the Health Canada warning, which governs prescribing in Canada:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2007/aranesp_eprex_hpc-cps_e.html

Recommendations/Next Steps:

- * follow Health Canada advice to not target hemoglobins greater than 120 g/L
- * follow Health Canada advice to not use erythropoietics in cancer patients who are not on radiation or chemotherapy
- * use appropriate prophylaxis for venous thrombosis when erythropoietics are being used for blood conservation in elective surgery

2. **New Dictation System**

Effective **May 23, 2007 at 7am**, the old Dictaphone and Lanier dictating systems will be replaced with a **new City-Wide Dictaphone Dictation System**.

There will be one city-wide phone number to access the system: internally from anywhere in the London hospitals, dial **66080** and externally dial **519-646-6080**.

There will be common city-wide work type numbers and site specific work type numbers to replace the many duplicate work types that currently exist in the old dictating systems.

You will receive a new dictating User ID number to replace the current User ID numbers thus eliminating the need to remember two dictating numbers if you practice at different sites across the city. You will retain your current number at your primary site and a new digit will precede your current number as follows:

- * If your primary site is LHSC, add 1 in front of your current User ID number.
- * If your primary site is SJHC, add 2 in front of your current User ID number.
- * If your primary site is LRCP, add 3 in front of your current User ID number.

New dictating instructions will be posted in Health Records in the chart completion areas and at all dictating areas in the London hospitals.

Reports for all registered patients that are transcribed through the new Dictaphone dictation system will be posted in Power Chart (Cerner).

If you are a physician who dictates on one of the current central systems, you will receive a personal dictator card with your new User ID number, dictating instructions and the new city-wide work types. This package was mailed out this week. Any questions, please contact **Charleen Sullivan, Project Manager**, email charleen.sullivan@lhsc.on.ca

3. ACLS Recertification Course

ACLS Recertification course is offered on May 24th, 8:00am to 4:00pm, Room 32, Education Building, SSH. The cost of the program is \$150 plus text with 2005 guidelines. To register contact: Myron.Steinmann@sympatico.ca or call ext. 57115.

4. Stolen laptop sparks Order by Privacy Commissioner to protect patient information

The protection of personal health information (PHI) **is vital** for our organization, and all staff and affiliates to ensure the trust of our patients, and to comply with our legal requirements. Of particular risk to the security of patient information are the practices of those who use portable information devices such as laptop computers. A recent Toronto hospital incident has this issue to all hospitals.

A physician recently brought a laptop out of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) with research information stored on the device, intending to work at home to analyze. The laptop was stolen and it contained the records of 2,900 patients involved in five research studies. The information in the research files included patient names, hospital ID numbers (e.g. PIN or J#s), diagnosis,

therapeutic interventions and HIV status. The only security measure on the laptop was a login password.

As a result of this serious breach of patient privacy, the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC), issued an Order (viewable at http://www.ipc.on.ca/images/Findings/up-3ho_004.pdf) directing Sick Kids to introduce a number of specific measures to protect personal health information. The Commissioner is also directing all Health Information Custodians (HICs) in Ontario (LHSC and SJHC are HICs) that no one working at their facilities should ever store any personal health information on laptops or mobile computing devices unless they have taken strong steps to ensure that the information is protected against unauthorized access, if the device is lost or stolen.

The IPC directed Sick Kids to take the following steps:

- * create or revise current corporate policies to:
 - **prohibit** the removal of identifiable personal health information in electronic form from the hospital premises;
 - consider the use of remote access to the organization's network as an alternative to using portable information devices;
 - **prohibit** storage of identifiable personal health information on non-secure servers, e.g. local/hard drives, portable information devices;
 - direct that, if storage on non-secure servers is required for the work to be done:
 - (a) the personal health information **must be either de-identified or encrypted** – password protection is **not** sufficient protection;
 - (b) store only the minimum amount of information for the minimum time required;
- * **designate** the Information Management department to ensure that appropriate software is installed on devices and for the training of the organization's users;
- * **educate** and train staff and other agents of the organization on the risks associated with portable information devices and about the new and revised policies pertaining to information security, as they become available; and
- * **review and revise** its research protocols and applications to comply with the Personal Health Information Protection Act.

All health information custodians must regularly review their privacy and security policies and procedures relating to the storage of health information on mobile computing devices to ensure that they, "are effective in minimizing the significant risk to privacy posed by the loss or theft of such devices."

The Privacy Commissioner's message contained in the Order ends with: "There is no excuse for unauthorized access to personal health information (PHI) due to the theft or loss of a mobile computing device – any PHI contained therein must be encrypted."

Representatives from LHSC and SJHC's departments of Health Information and Privacy, Information Management, Lawson Research and the UWO Health Sciences Research Ethics Board (HSREB) have reviewed the Order and are taking the following steps to ensure that the manner in which the organization, as well as our staff and affiliates protect the security of personal health information is compliant with the direction in the IPC Order:

- * encryption software has been purchased; more information will be available in the near future about implementation, both on hospital owned devices and about use of encryption software on devices owned by staff and affiliates,

- * representatives from the UWO HSREB have reviewed their research application and are enhancing requirements for researchers to ensure the security of personal health information,

- * work has commenced on a policy to address security of personal health information in all media, with strict requirements around storage on portable information devices,

- * work is planned to review all existing corporate policies that pertain to personal health information. These will be enhanced as necessary,

- * information security will be stressed in education for staff and affiliates.

Questions? Contact:

Wendy Komar, Privacy Manager for LHSC & SJHC at Extension 78982, or Ruth Bullas, Manager Clinical Research Administration, Lawson Health Research Institute at Extension 76093 for questions pertaining to research.

5. Discharge Planning Policy

The LHCS and SJHC Discharge Planning Policies have been approved and will be implemented June 11. Chiefs, Site Chiefs, Division Chiefs and Program Directors are asked to attend the leaders preparation sessions to obtain the Leader's Toolkit and further disseminate the information to Physicians and Residents in their area. To sign up for these sessions, contact Dorien Cook at ext 75938.

6. Standardizing Infusion Pumps

April 10, 2007 was the Official Kick-Off towards implementation of Baxter Colleague CXE IV Infusion Pumps to standardize large-volume infusion pumps across LHSC.

The scope of this ambitious project is twofold:

- to implement the first large scale use of dose error reduction software at LHSC using the Baxter Colleague CXE pump, and
- to make quality improvements in our IV practices through a clinical review of IV fluids and medication delivery methods and pump use.

Over the next 7 months, LHSC staff from BioMedical Engineering, IV Services, Infection Control, Nursing, Pharmacy, Risk Management and Communications, along with physicians and HMMS, will partner with Baxter Corporation staff to:

- make recommendations for practice changes
- determine and configure appropriate drug libraries
- provide education for staff, and
- develop a sustainability plan for pump management after the implementation phase is completed.

The projected date to begin education and roll-out of the pumps is mid-September 2007.

Check out the Project Charter and key dates on the new website at <http://www.lhsc.on.ca/priv/employee/> Click on Large Volume Infusion Pump Implementation Project 2007 under Corporate Initiatives / Notices.

For further information, please contact the Chair of the Implementation Steering Committee, Glenda Hayward, Ext. 75384.

7. Science and Technology Equipment Exhibition

The Science and Technology Equipment Exhibition will be held on May 14, 2007 from 10:00am to 3:00pm in the Great Hall at Somerville House.

This event will provide the research community and affiliate research institutions an excellent opportunity to personally meet with 30 vendors, and view their latest in technology.

There is no cost to attend! Door prizes, refreshments and snacks will be provided.

In addition to the show, vendors will have an opportunity to present 15-20 minute "Information Sessions" on a wide range of topics at an adjoining conference room. These sessions will start every ½ hour. Go to http://www.uwo.ca/finance/purchase/wbuys/sci/sci_schedule.html to view more information.

8. Compensation & Benefits :

Have you checked the Medical Affairs website lately?

http://www.londonhospitals.ca/departments/medical_affairs/post_grad/index.php

There you will find helpful information regarding:

- * Payment schedule showing when you will get paid for regular hours worked as well as when to expect pay for your on call stipends
- * Information on group health benefits
- * Applying for leaves of absence – policy and forms required

9. Holiday from PAIRO dues

This is to confirm that the PAIRO General Council has passed the "PAIRO dues holiday". The dues holiday is for two months - May 2007 and June 2007. This means that there will be no PAIRO dues deducted during these two months.