

BRIEFING NOTE

To: LHSC Professional Staff (physicians, dentists and midwives)
From: Richard Jones, Director Pharmacy
Re: “Clarify” admission orders received by pharmacy
Date: December 2009

Background:

Admission orders are sometimes received in pharmacy stating “pharmacy to clarify” or “pharmacist to clarify meds”.

Key Issues:

These orders, not stating drugs, are not actionable by pharmacy and therefore no meds can be dispensed. Neither can nurses act on them. Orders written in this format cause delays in providing medications to the patient.

Recommendations/Next Steps:

Pharmacist services are provided to all patients at LHSC based on available resources. Because pharmacy services has limited clinical coverage across the hospital we encourage physicians who wish to collaborate with a pharmacist when ordering medications for a **specific** patient to contact their liaison pharmacist directly.