

February 1, 2016

Patient safety at heart of provincial Smart IV Pump project

Saskatchewan patients receiving IV medication in hospital will soon be a lot safer, thanks to the province-wide introduction this year of infusion “smart pumps” that will help prevent dosing errors.

A provincial drug library, created late last year by a project team based at 3sHealth, sets out all of dosing information for the more than 700 medications that are delivered by smart pumps in hospitals.

In January, a diverse group of healthcare professionals came together at 3sHealth to design a reliable process for submitting, approving, and communicating changes to that drug library, and for ensuring that all of the 3100 pumps around the province are updated.

During the one-week improvement event, the team developed a change request form and submission process that makes it easy for a frontline staff to identify and request changes to the provincial drug library. Under the new standard work processes, routine changes will be done on a monthly cycle, while critical changes are addressed in 24 hours.

“I’ve never been more convinced that we are better together as a health care system,” said Mark Anderson, following the report-out. Anderson is the sponsor and process owner of the RPIW and Vice President of Business Development at 3sHealth. “People with a really diverse background came together and collectively focused on patient safety.”

Improvement event participants included:

Dr. Joy Dobson, physician consultant, 3sHealth
Terrence Davidson, Provincial Formulary Group
Doug Selinger, RQHR, Pharmacist
Justine Hunchak, eHealth, Provincial Information Technology
Larry Clark, RQHR, Clinical Engineering Group
Leah Palmer, ABCC, Clinical Nurse Educator
Camille Delainey, HRHA, Clinical Nurse Educator
Rhonda Goodtrack, 3sHealth, Clinical Lead