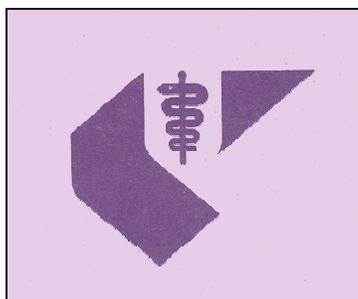


# THE STANDARD

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba

February, 2008

To: Standard Committee Chairs



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## PHYSICIAN LIABILITY WHEN ORDERING TESTS

Physicians who order lab tests have the responsibility to have a reasonable system to follow-up on the results of the investigations ordered. Physicians in private practices would likely be held directly liable for any failure to follow-up on investigation results. The situation is more complex when the physician functions in a facility such as a hospital. These physicians should satisfy themselves that there is a reasonable process in place to follow up on results.

There are instances when patients do not go for ordered investigation. Currently, tracking systems for investigation follow up are frequently not in place and, therefore, the physician is often unaware of patient non-compliance or failure to complete investigation for any reason. There are also instances where medical results are not received.

The College encourages physicians to introduce procedures in their practices to minimize to the extent possible missing results and to make extra efforts to follow up on critical lab results.

### A Continuing Education Night for Providers – May 22, 2008

#### You're Invited!

Members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba are invited and encouraged to participate in a Continuing Education Opportunity focused on medication safety, including *Patient Safety Is in Your Hand*, *Medication Reconciliation* and the *It's Safe To Ask Medication Card* initiatives. This event for physicians, pharmacists and nurses will take place on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Sam Cohen Auditorium, St Boniface Research Centre, 351 Tache Avenue. The evening will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Educational Session at 7:00 p.m. It will be broadcast via telehealth to 18 rural sites. Included will be Ashern, Brandon, Churchill, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Killarney, Notre Dame de Lourdes, Norway House, Portage la Prairie, Roblin, Russell, St. Pierre, St. Rose du Lac, Steinbach, Swan River, The Pas, Thompson and Winkler. Additional videoconference sites may be added.

For information, contact the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association at 204 233-1411

Look for the 2003-2004 Maternal and Perinatal Health Standards Committee Report on CPSM website @ [www.cpsm.mb.ca](http://www.cpsm.mb.ca)

**PLEASE FEEL  
FREE TO  
DISTRIBUTE  
THIS  
NEWSLETTER  
WIDELY!!**

PHYSICIANS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT "CLINICAL NUGGETS" TO SHARE WITH COLLEAGUES. THESE COULD BE TACTICS TO USE WHEN APPROACHING MAKING A DIAGNOSIS OR DETERMINING THERAPIES. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO POSE TO YOUR COLLEAGUES AND INVITE THEIR RESPONSE, PLEASE FORWARD THE QUESTION TO THE STANDARDS STAFF FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THE STANDARD" NEWSLETTER.

## Two Important Manitoba Institute For Patient Safety Initiatives

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety has joined with professional groups, regulatory bodies and healthcare organizations to launch 2 province-wide patient safety initiatives:

- *A Medication Card* which patients can use to list their medications with help and support of family members and healthcare providers, and
- *Patient Safety is in Your Hand*, an initiative aimed at raising greater awareness among providers of dangers of using certain abbreviations and symbols that increase the possibility of adverse events.

Medication errors are a leading cause of patient harm. In the Canadian Adverse Events Study (2004), drug and fluid related events were the second most common type of event to which adverse events were related. Improving medication safety through avoiding use of abbreviations, dose designations and symbols in the medication use system and conducting medication reconciliation will reduce preventable patient harm.

"Pockets of activity are taking place in various health organizations and jurisdictions on both of these initiatives," said Laurie Thompson, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety's Executive Director. "However, this is the first time that so many organizations and jurisdictions have taken such a collective and unified approach to these two important areas where we know patient safety for Manitobans can be improved."

*Patient Safety is in Your Hand* will be publicly announced in late May. It will build on the Regional Policy on Medication Order Writing Standards, introduced by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Posters and the "Do Not Use List" will form part of a tool kit for organizations to use to introduce and promote *Patient Safety is in Your Hand*.

The *Medication Card* will be launched at the beginning of June. It is Phase Two of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety's *It's Safe to Ask* Campaign, launched in January 2007. The *It's Safe To Ask Medication Card* was developed to support medication reconciliation being conducted in acute, long-term care and community settings in Manitoba as part of the *Safer Healthcare Now!* Campaign.

The *Medication Card* is being created in a format that can be carried to appointments and into healthcare settings. The current Emergency Response Information Kit (E.R.I.K.) will be revised to accommodate the new *Medication Card*.

The goals on the projects are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of medication safety and its affect on patients, families and the health care system,
- Improve communication between health care providers and patients/families about their medications, and

Improve patient safety and reduce harm to patients from medication errors

It is important for people to know that "**It's Safe to Ask**".

## PAYMENT FOR AREA STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Change in Policy

The philosophy underlying honoraria and expenses recognizes the individual physician as a contributing member of the profession. Accordingly, honoraria and expense reimbursement are not intended as inducements. They are based on the wish of Council that there be no significant barriers to the participation of any member in the self-governing process.

In the past, expense accounts for ASC meetings were not processed for payment until the minutes were received in the College office. Some committees submitted their accounts immediately after a meeting and some committees held them until the minutes had been completed and sent them as a package. Either method could lead to delay in payment of the accounts.

In future, please have committee members complete and sign their expense claims at the meeting and fax them to the College office (to the attention of Diane Kennett) immediately following the meeting. Receipt will be acknowledged and the accounts submitted for payment.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the current form. Please photocopy this form for use by committee members and destroy any old forms you have on hand.

***Standards Committees are issued a stamp which can be used to identify documents protected under the Evidence Act.***

### **STAMP**

Any document or correspondence **produced or made by a standards committee** exclusively for committee use such as agendas, minutes, Educational letters, commitments

### **DO NOT STAMP**

The medical record.

General reports or recommendations developed for the purpose of fulfilling the reporting obligations of a standards committee (e.g. statistical reports, summaries of committee actions, documents with no patient, physician or other professional identifiers)

Documents prepared for the referral of a case/physician or other professional by a standards committee for further action by an administrative process

Documents prepared for a complaints or disciplinary process

Standards Committee membership lists

General correspondence.

## The Standard

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## Safer Healthcare Now 5th National Learning Session

### *Building Momentum for the Future: Taking the Next Step in Patient Safety*

On-Line Registration is available for the fifth National Learning Series of Safer Healthcare Now, hosted by the Western Node, to be held in Winnipeg, MB on April 1 & 2, 2008. Safer Healthcare Now is a grass-roots national patient safety campaign aimed at reducing preventable deaths and complications. It provides best practice methods and modifications for local needs, tools and resources, and expert guidance and support to teams across Canada. See [www.saferhealthcarenow.ca](http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca) for a complete listing of and information on all six strategies initiated in 2005. New strategies will be introduced at the National Learning Session.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety is a proud sponsor of the Western Node, which is the operations component of the campaign in the West. There are over 66 teams enrolled in Medication Reconciliation. Medication Reconciliation is a process to reconcile all patient medications at all interfaces of care.

This year's National Learning Series, *Building Momentum for the Future: Taking the Next Step in Patient Safety*, will provide a stimulating and energizing opportunity to gain new skills, understanding and to re-energize commitment to improving the quality and safety of patient care.

For program details and to register on-line, go to:

<http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca/Default.aspx?folderId=1280>