



March 2017

Northern Health Policies and Clinical Practice Standards Newsletter

Quality and Innovation

Evidence Corner:

Have you considered how to implement your policy or clinical practice standard? Look to the evidence! The following are links to two articles worth reading:

- [Developing a checklist for guideline implementation planning: review and synthesis of guideline development and implementation advice](#)
- [Improving the uptake of systematic reviews: a systematic review of intervention effectiveness and relevance](#)

Contacts:

To request information or help, send an email to PoliciesStandards@northernhealth.ca

This newsletter is published four times a year in March, June, September and December.

New and Revised Clinical Practice Standards

[Provincial PEWS Vital Sign, Assessment and Documentation](#)

By Jennifer Begg, Executive Lead, Child and Youth Health

What's new? Provincial policy is new to Northern Health (NH).

Why is this policy important? Consistency and best practice.

Are there resources available at my site? [Child Health BC](#) website and Pediatric Competency Course on the website.

[Non-Formulary and Excluded Medications](#)

By Nancy Dyck, Medication Use Management Pharmacist

What's new? Updated to provide documentation of all approved non-formulary or excluded medication requests to:

- 1) assist with clear communication to purchasers regarding procurement approval;
- 2) assess clinical indications where formulary alternative unavailable;
- 3) assess financial impact of non-formulary/excluded medication costs.

Why is this policy important? Provides the process for staff to follow when a non-formulary or excluded medication is ordered.

Are there resources available at my site? Contact Nancy Dyck or Gordon Harper, NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists with questions.

[Drug Transfer Requests from BCEHS Paramedics](#)

Regional Director, Pharmacy

[Sexual Health and Intimacy in Long Term Care Facilities](#)

By Brenda Miller, NI Regional Residential Educator

What's new? New standard for Long Term Care Settings.

Why is this policy important? Ensures a person-centred approach to care.

Are there resources available at my site? Links to resources provided in the standard. Contact Brenda Miller with questions.

[EID: Medical Health Officer Operational Guide](#)

By Emerging Infectious Disease Plan Working Group

Why is this policy important? To support organizational preparedness for an Emerging Infectious Disease.

[Neonatal: Heel Puncture](#)

By Martina Irvine, Clinical Nurse Educator, NICU, UHNBC

What's new? We have switched from warmed diapers to commercial warmers for improved temperature regulation. Commercial products warm to 40° C so it is important to limit length of application and check frequently.

[Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Management](#)

By Monica Sephton, Infection Control Practitioner

What's new? Reviewed and updated.

Why is this policy important? Staff who read this will know what to do in an outbreak!

[Fetal Scalp Blood Sampling](#)

By Jane Ritchey, Executive Lead, Perinatal Services

What's new? Updated clinical practice standard.

Why is this policy important? Provides support to health care providers who do not routinely use this technique.

Are there resources available at my site? 10-030-6060 [Scalp Sampling/Normal Blood Gas Pocket Card](#); 10-030-6091 [Amnioinfusion/Scalp Sampling Procedure Pocket Card](#)

[Naxolone Administration in the Management of Suspected Opioid Overdose](#)

By Reanne Sanford, Regional Nursing Lead, Harm Reduction

What's new?

There is support for all NH staff to respond and administer Naloxone to suspected opioid overdoses.

Why is this policy important? Increased knowledge and awareness of overdose prevention, recognition and

response. To work towards timely response and recognition of suspected overdose and reduce opioid overdose related deaths.

Are there resources available at my site? Learning hub modules, Videos and resources available at www.towardtheheart.com

[Dispensing and Distribution for Persons at Risk of Opioid Overdose: Take Home Naloxone Kits](#)

By Reanne Sanford, Regional Nursing Lead, Harm Reduction

What's new?

Increased scope of practice for LPNs dispensing Take Home Naloxone kits in community, includes community social workers into this practice.

Why is this policy important? Increased access to Take Home Naloxone kits in NH communities is one strategy to decrease deaths due to opioid overdoses.

Are there resources available at my site? Learning Hub modules, Videos and resources available <http://towardtheheart.com/>

[Medical Assistance in Dying](#)

By Kirsten Thomson, Regional Director Risk and Compliance

What's new?

Medical assistance in dying is now a lawful service in Canada. To provide guidance to staff and physicians on how patients may access this service in NH, this policy outlines the legislative requirements and the processes in place for the provision of medical assistance in dying.

Why is this policy important?

Ensures that medical assistance in dying is provided within the legal limitations, and provides support to staff and physicians who are providing this as a new service.

Are there resources available at my site?

There are links to patient information, provincial forms, and other resources on [OurNH](#), [northernhealth.ca](#) and the [NH physician website](#). [NH Policy Rounds Presentation](#)

[Medical Assistance in Dying: Registered Nurses Aiding a Physician or Nurse Practitioner](#)

By Cathy Czechmeister, Professional Practice Lead Nursing

What's new? Informs and directs the role of the RN in aiding a physician or nurse practitioner in the provision of medical assistance in dying within NH programs and services.

Why is this policy important?

Due to the significance of medical assistance in dying, CRNBC has set standards, limits

and conditions that must be followed including guidelines for RNs who may choose to conscientiously object to participating in medical assistance in dying.

Are there resources available at my site? [Learning Hub Module](#)

and competency quiz: CRNBC condition determines that this module must be completed and the RN must achieve a minimum of 80% score on the quiz prior to aiding with medical assistance in dying. Contact person for questions following review of the module: Professionalpractice@northernhealth.ca; [OurNH MAiD](#) page and maid@northernhealth.ca

[Infusion Pump Competency](#)

By Arlene Crawford, Medication Safety Officer

What's new? Addition of students, instructors and midwives to competency requirements for infusion pumps.

Why is this policy important?

Patient safety, meeting Accreditation Required Organizational Practices.

[Accessing Port-A-Cath Intraspinally Implanted Devices](#)

By Tracy Feeney, Practice Improvement Nurse, Pain Clinic

What's new? Updated - with the most current best practice including the new cleansing solution.

New and Revised Administrative Policies and Procedures

[Discharge Against Medical Advice](#)

By Kirsten Thomson, Regional Director Risk and Compliance

What's New? Updated to be more descriptive of requirements for assessing patients wishing to self-discharge. Also updates to [Refusal of Treatment Form](#)

Health Information Management Transformation Update of Policies:

[Admission: Acute Care; Death Registration and Discharge;](#)
[Third Party Liability Submission to Ministry of Health;](#)
[Release of Health Record Information to Health Care Providers](#)

By Regional Health Information Management Working Group

[Single Use, Single Patient Use and Limited Use Medical Devices](#)

By Bonnie Mackenzie, Regional Coordinator, Medical Device Reprocessing

What's new? Clarification given regarding the difference between a single use, single

patient use, limited use and disposable items.

Why is this policy important?

To improve patient safety, many devices in health care are now disposable. Staff should be accountable for discarding single use devices at point of use.

Always read package or manufacturers instruction for use. The symbol below means the device can not be reprocessed. Discard.



Are there resources available at my site? Contact

Bonnie.Mackenzie@northernhealth.ca

Corporate Purchasing Card Program

By Regional Manager, Financial Reporting and Treasury Services

What's new?

Gift Card purchases are no longer allowed.

A new default expense object code (6955555 -Unallocated P-card Charges) has been created and will be applied to all cards ensuring cardholders reallocate all transactions.

A new Application Form has been created with training for new users added to the application process.

New non-compliance section has been added to the policy detailing escalation process.

Home Care Client: Portable Overhead Lift

By Helen Styles, Advisor Health Safety and Prevention, Workplace Health and Safety

What's new? Changed title from Overhead Lifts to Home Care Client: Portable Overhead Lift.

Employee Recognition

By Johan Greyling, Organizational Development Consultant

What's new? Previously titled Employee Service & Retirement Awards. Current information on how to nominate employees for Dr. Charles Jago Award included in policy.

Why is this policy important? NH values the contributions of all staff and physicians.

Signing Authority

By Beverly Little, Director Finance and Controller

What's new? Clarification on Spending Authority Matrix and role definitions; additional contracting authority levels.

Charting Style and Type

By Kirsten Thomson, Regional Director Risk and Compliance; Sheila Gordon-Payne, Chief Nursing Officer

What's new?

Provides guidance on what should be included in narrative charting, and the appropriate time to complete narrative charting. It does not represent a change in practice, but a summary of guidance on how to make narrative charting the best it can be.

Chemical and Thermal Disinfection

By Bonnie Mackenzie, Regional Coordinator, Medical Device Reprocessing

What's new? New recommendations for respiratory and anesthesia equipment.

Why is this policy important?

Describes the difference between levels of disinfection, and the procedure for using thermal disinfection for respiratory equipment.

Are there resources available at my site? Contact

Bonnie.Mackenzie@northernhealth.ca

Travel Expense Reimbursement

By Beverly Little, Director Finance and Controller

What's new?

Meal allowances for non-contract staff have been eliminated and receipts are now required. Guidelines for reasonable maximums are provided.

Unionized staff are still eligible to claim meal allowances as per their respective collective bargaining agreements.

*****Important Notice Regarding Clinical Teaching Tools**

In support of regional standardization and housing of all educational materials on [NH Learning Hub](#), we are no longer publishing new clinical teaching tools. The Clinical Teaching Tools page will close in 2017.