

Open Letter to Nurses December 2007



Code Blue Project, CPR Training, New Grad Day

In this issue of the Open Letter we will provide you with further information about the Code Blue Project in Adult Critical Care, CPR Training Policy, CPR Training, Wound Care, New Grad Day, Safety Engineered Needles the Leadership Framework and Transfer/Delegation of Function.

In the October edition of the Open Letter, I mentioned that there would be **Wound education** for health care providers. The dates of the education are available on the WRHA Intranet site, *INSITE* at <http://home.wrha.mb.ca/education/index> and can also be obtained by contacting 926-7045.

New Grad Day for Nurses 2008 is being held to offer support and resources to those in their first year of employment as a nurse transitioning into the profession and for managers working with newly graduated staff. It will be held January 18, 2007 at the Springs Conference Centre. To register please contact Pam Kitchur at 831-2948 or e-mail pkitchur@wrha.mb.ca. The form is also available on the WRHA Intranet site, *INSITE* at http://www.wrha.mb.ca/staff/files/NewGradDay_RegForm.pdf

In July/August we provided information regarding **CPR training** in the WRHA. Since that time there has been a list of providers and a policy developed to provide guidance to staff and supervisors to know what basic training is recommended for the practice areas. A WRHA CPR Training policy is posted on the WRHA Intranet site, *INSITE* at <http://home.wrha.mb.ca/news/070625.php> or by contacting 926-7045. This information has been distributed widely.

In the October Open Letter I also discussed the **Code Blue Project** and **CAE Code Blue education**.

- The Adult Critical Care Program Code Blue Project was established to standardize adult code blue practices in the WRHA as they relate to the Adult Critical Care Program. The project team is moving forward on several fronts including drafting and consulting on the draft policy, selecting Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), obtaining consensus on medications and equipment for the Code Blue cart and drafting the Code Blue record.
- The Simulation Development project has also been established to partner with industry to develop simulation software that can be used to facilitate Code Blue training.

We have also talked in past issues about **Safety Engineered Devices**. In 2006, the Government of Manitoba introduced an amendment to the Workplace Safety and Health Act titled: Bill 23: Needles in Medical Workplaces. The legislation directs medical workplaces to implement safety-engineered needles in place of non-safety hollow-bore needles where reasonably practicable.

Between April 2005 and August 2007, IV catheters, general use and blood collection needles were evaluated and implemented across Acute, Long Term Care and Community sites within the WRHA. Preliminary reports show a 50% reduction in the number of reported hollow bore needle stick injuries. This implementation has impacted on the practice of every nurse. The dedication and support of all team members is recognized as having been essential to the success of the project. Many thanks to the many sponsors, site leads, educators, managers and directors from all disciplines and sectors for enthusiastically embracing the changes.

A new area we are now working on is **Transfer and Delegation of Function**. Due to changes in how we view competency as an accountability of every nurse and the advent of extended practice nurses we have been reviewing the policies in this area from each site/program. It is clear that there are many activities that previously required Transfer of Function that are now well within a nurses' scope of practice.

A Joint Statement between the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba is on the CRNM website at http://www.crnmb.ca/downloads/guidelines_shared_competencies.pdf and is a good example of how this area has evolved. As we work through this issue at WRHA Nursing Leadership Council (NLC) I welcome your input and concerns.

As mentioned in previous issues of the Open Letter, follow-up work on the **Leadership Framework** from NLC and the **Dorothy Wylie Leadership Institute** continues. A group from our Nursing Leadership Council has developed an on-line learning tool for nurses and others to assess their leadership skills. This tool is now available at <http://www.hsc.mb.ca/leadership/>. We all have leadership opportunities. All nurses are leaders, whether they lead patients towards health or supervise auxiliary staff or hold a formal leadership position. Please take a few minutes to check out this site. You may find it helpful to use the Work life Balance Section at this time of year to assess yourself! All of us can learn from the leadership site, we trust you will find the site useful too.

Thank you to Lori Embleton, Helga Bryant, Brenda Stutsky, Cathy Rippen-Sisler, and Beth Brundson-Clark for all your work on these projects. Special thanks and appreciation to the many nurses who have reviewed articles, appeared in videos and evaluated this work as it has developed.

All the best to all of you and your family for a safe and happy holiday season! *Take care and Season's Greetings,*

Jan Currie



Look for my next letter in June. I appreciate hearing your comments.
Submissions are welcome.
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