

Medication Management Standards Newsletter Vancouver Acute and Richmond Edition

- Accreditation Canada Survey will take place September 19–23, 2016
- In this issue, we focus on Reporting Medication Incidents and Adverse Drug Reactions

- The VCH Accreditation Medication Management Standards Advisory Group is working on Accreditation Canada's Medication Management Standards to address improvement opportunities identified from the self assessments surveys conducted during the Spring of 2015.
- These standards focus on the safe and effective management of medications; and address all aspects of the medication use process from selection to patient administration.

Reporting Adverse Drug Reactions

- Correctly administered medications resulting in clinically significant suspected adverse drug reactions (ADR) should be reported to Health Canada. Especially if they are unexpected, serious, or for recently marketed medications.
- ADR's can be reported by any health care professional through the online Adverse Drug Reaction Form which can be accessed via **VCH Connect (see below)**.
- Reporting an ADR contributes to identification of previously unrecognized rare or serious ADR's, changes in product safety information, and other regulatory actions such as the issuance of a health product advisory or withdrawal of a product from the Canadian market.

Reporting Medication Incidents

- VCH expects staff to report medication errors and strongly encourages the reporting of "near misses" or close calls. Our policy on incident reporting is designed to encourage all staff to be partners in improving safety.
- It is important that these incidents are reported on **SLS (Safety Learning System)** with a **detailed description** of what happened.
- Investigation of the incidents focuses on the root causes and system issues, not on blaming the individuals involved. Our goal is to improve procedures and safeguards to make the system safer and prevent future errors.
- Over time, trends can be observed and system changes can be made to prevent patients from being seriously harmed.
- The **online SLS** incident reporting link can be accessed via **VCHConnect**.
- Discussion of investigation findings can be through Safety Huddles, staff meetings, emails to unit staff, and postings on the unit.
- Adverse drug events due to incorrect medication administration should be reported on SLS.

