

July 9, 2014

New technology improves cardiac diagnostics

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has implemented a new electronic electrocardiogram (ECG) system that will improve patient safety and the quality of cardiac diagnostics at the health centre.

The new system, also known as IntelliSpace ECG or iECG, streamlines the entire ECG process. Prior to this, RVH used a traditional process in which a physician orders an ECG, it is performed and the results are printed. Physicians must be in RVH to retrieve the printout to read the hard copy.

“We are moving from a paper-based system to an electronic format where ECGs are ordered, captured, interpreted and resulted - all online,” says Lindsey Crawford, vice-president of Patient Programs. “A physician’s order for an ECG will now be entered into our software and the ECG will be performed. It is saved and transmitted to iECG where it is displayed in the patient’s Electronic Medical Record (EMR). A physician can review the ECG remotely, from their home or office - anywhere they have an internet connection.”

This electronic access to a patient’s EMR is the most significant advantage to iECG and to patient care. A physician will now be able to formally read the ECG remotely, improving the timeliness of interpretation. This means prompt decision-making and intervention - both of which are critical to patient outcomes during a cardiac event.

“We know that time is muscle when it comes to a heart attack – the sooner diagnosis and treatment occur, the better the final outcome for patients,” says Dr. Brad Dibble, RVH cardiologist. “The sooner we can receive and interpret an ECG, the sooner we can determine a diagnosis and I don’t have to be in the health centre to do this. Not only is this new process more timely, but it also improves the patient’s experience because we know what we’re dealing with right away and can plan appropriate action quickly.”

Other benefits of the new system include improved efficiency and workflow because there are fewer steps to prepare ECGs for reading by a physician. RVH can also more accurately track the number of ECGs being performed, reduce paper use and complete all billing online.

Cutline: *Dr. Brad Dibble, RVH cardiologist, reviews a patient’s iECG remotely using an internet connection and his own device. This ability to access the ECG via a patient’s electronic medical record improves timeliness of diagnosis, and ultimately patient outcomes and experience.*

-30-

For more Information:

Suzanne Legue
Chief Communications Officer
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

Jennifer Moore
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41618