



Straight from the Heart

WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program Newsletter



Quality Improvements: Progress to Date

The interdisciplinary WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program Quality Standards Committee (led by Dr. Keith Warrian and Lillian Hall, Quality Improvement Manager) its Standards Sub-Committee (led by Dr. Roger Philipp) and numerous quality improvement working groups continue to make considerable progress on patient safety, risk management and accreditation activities. The goal of these quality initiatives is to improve cardiac patient care program-wide, by assessing the potential risks and challenges related to clinical processes, identifying tangible solutions from evidence-based practice and implementing these positive changes in the health care environment.

There are many valuable developments to report:

- The WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program was formally accredited by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) in February 2008. This was the first opportunity for the Program to undertake this important exercise, which included extensive internal auditing and consultation as well as an official external review by the CCHSA.
- Multiple working groups undertook projects in conjunction with the pan-Canadian "Safer Healthcare Now" initiative, including:

⇒ Surgical site infection project in the Intensive Care Cardiac Sciences (ICCS) and the Cardiac Surgery Inpatient Unit (CSIU) to prevent post operative infections.

⇒ Ventilator associated pneumonia project to prevent pneumonia in the ICCS Unit.

⇒ Central line infection and medication reconciliation projects.

- Heart Attack (Because Time is Muscle!) project. The WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program collaborated with multiple partners to implement a comprehensive heart attack program in the City of Winnipeg. Using innovative technology (i.e. Emergency Medical Services Patient Electronic Record, blue tooth, MTS Personal Digital Assistants), paramedics on the scene with heart attack patients will now be able to communicate directly with a cardiologist 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Based on the presentation and transmitted cardiogram, the patients either receive a clot busting drug in the field from paramedics or are referred directly to the St. Boniface General Hospital heart catheterization lab. This direct referral bypasses the emergency department, saving both the patient and health care team precious minutes when it counts the most. Patients are met by a senior cardiology resident and two nurses from the Cardiac Sciences Program who ensure the appropriate actions.

Some Members of the Quality Standards Committee



New Developments

- The **Intensive Care Cardiac Sciences Unit (ICCS)** and the **Cardiac Surgery Inpatient Unit (CSIU)** respectively held and successfully completed *Kaizen Blitzes* on each of their units. *Kaizen* is a Japanese word that means positive change. A *Kaizen Blitz* is a concentrated, highly intensive activity designed to make rapid improvements quickly and efficiently. These exercises are part of the



CSIU Kaizen Blitz

Cardiac Sciences Program ongoing commitment to continuous improvement. Both the ICCS and CSIU were able to make significant progress in a short period of time. Stay tuned for further developments. Gladys Cadieux, who recently joined the Cardiac Sciences Program as a Project Manager, will be working program-wide on related initiatives.



ICCS Kaizen Blitz

- On April 21, 2008, consultations were held to discuss the **APPROACH**

(Alberta Provincial Project for Outcome Assessment in Coronary Heart Disease) database. Since **APPROACH** is widely utilized in cardiac clinical and research settings throughout Canada, the meetings focused on its potential benefits for the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program and **Cardiac Health Research in Manitoba (CHaRM)**. Consultation participants expressed significant interest in pursuing this partnership and follow-up is currently underway.



APPROACH Planning Meeting

Congratulations!!

- ◆ **Bev Humphries**, Clinical Resource Nurse, Cardiac Sciences Program, who received the SBGH Nursing Excellence Award for clinical nursing practice.
- ◆ **Rosanne Labossière**, Clinical Resource Nurse, Cardiac Sciences Program, who received the SBGH Nursing Excellence Award for clinical nursing practice.
- ◆ **Barbara Champagne** and **Karen Coupland**, Registered Nurses, Cardiac Sciences Program, who received Honourable Mentions for Nursing Excellence in clinical practice.
- ◆ **Dr. Collette Seifer**, who received the Teacher of the Year Award, as recognized by Cardiology residents. **Dr. Nasir Shaikh** received Honourable Mention.
- ◆ **Dr. Chris Christodoulou**, who received the Teacher of the Year Award, as recognized by Anesthesia and Cardiac Surgery residents.
- ◆ **Maureen Kuppe**, Computer Applications Specialist, her artwork was featured as part of the current St. Boniface General Hospital Juried exhibition at the Buhler Gallery.
- ◆ All participants in the Cardiac Sciences Research Day on May 14, 2008. In the Clinical Sciences category, award recipients were **Lyle Stronger** (1st prize) and **Vic Ariyarajah** (2nd prize). In the Basic Science category, award recipients were **Jon-Jon Santiago** (1st prize) and **Chantal Dupasquier** (2nd prize).



May 14, 2008
Some Presenters from the
Cardiac Sciences Research Day

Please welcome:

- ◆ **Audrey Glidden**, who was recently appointed as Database Clerk.
- ◆ **Fraser Barnett**, who has joined the Cardiac Surgery Inpatient Unit (CSIU), as a Clinical Assistant.

Best wishes to:

- ◆ **Dr. Alan Menkis**, who recently celebrated a special (surprise!) birthday in the company of Cardiac Sciences colleagues.

Talkback Corner

We want to hear from you! The WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program would appreciate your questions, comments or suggestions. Please forward articles for this newsletter or other items for communication to jourchene@sbgh.mb.ca or via the "Contact Us" link on the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program website, www.cardiacsciences.mb.ca.