LESCOR

Legal Services Contract Review Application

Ryan Cooper In-House Counsel Northside Hospital System

> NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL

Contract Management Changes

- LESCOR = electronic contract requisition system
- Replaces paper-based interim process
- LESCOR available for use by Gwinnett users NOW

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Contract Management Policy

- Available on Lucidoc under Administrative Policies > "Contract Management"
- Available on LESCOR welcome page
- High-Level Overview:
 - Requires a written agreement for all transactions with outside parties
 - Requires legal review of all documents that require Northside's signature/agreement
 - Requires that <u>some</u> written agreements be submitted through LESCOR prior to signing
 - Establishes who is authorized to sign contracts
 - Describes how contracts are stored and maintained.



What is a "contract"?

- Broad definition in Contract Management Policy
- Any document in any form (paper or electronic) that obligates Northside to do anything (e.g. pay money, provide healthcare services, grant data use rights, etc.)
- Familiar examples:
 - Service agreements, purchase agreements, lease agreements, license agreements, nondisclosure/confidentiality agreements
- Other examples that ARE considered "contracts" but may not appear to be a contract:
 - Statements of work, proposals, quotes, letters of agreement, engagement letters, memoranda of understanding, letters of intent, offers/acceptances, amendments to existing contracts
- ASSUME THAT ANY DOCUMENT REQUIRING A NORTHSIDE SIGNATURE IS A CONTRACT



Which contracts should be submitted through LESCOR?

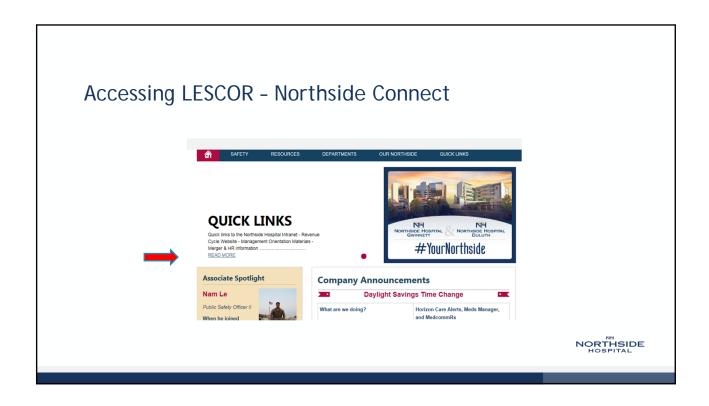
- All contracts except:
 - Real estate transactions (leases, construction, architectural, etc.)
 - Employment agreements (provider and employee)
 - Clinical research
 - · Managed care
 - Insurance
 - Physician Service Agreements (PSAs)
- Must still be reviewed by counsel for Northside before agreeing
- Contact Legal Services for more information

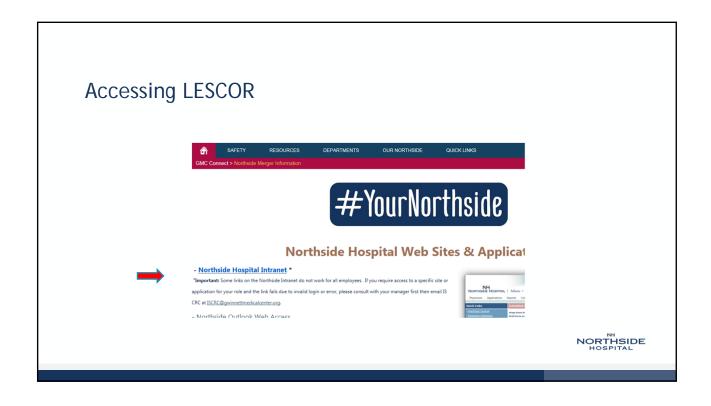


Importance of Contract Review

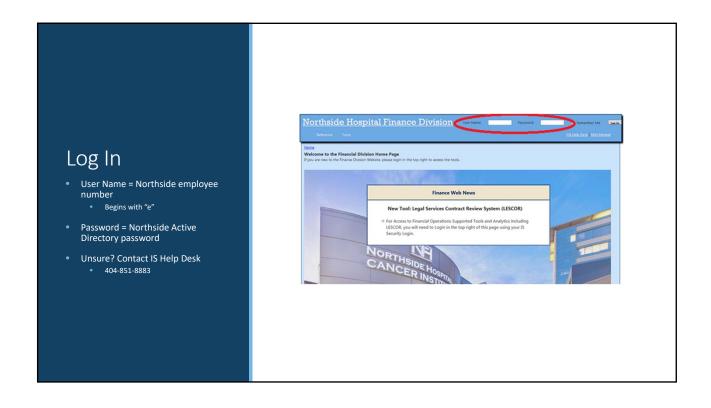
- Contracts are legal documents that impose financial or other obligations on Northside
- Two Primary Goals:
 - Mitigate risk
 - Manage expenditures
- Compliance
 - Healthcare regulations
 - New accounting guidelines

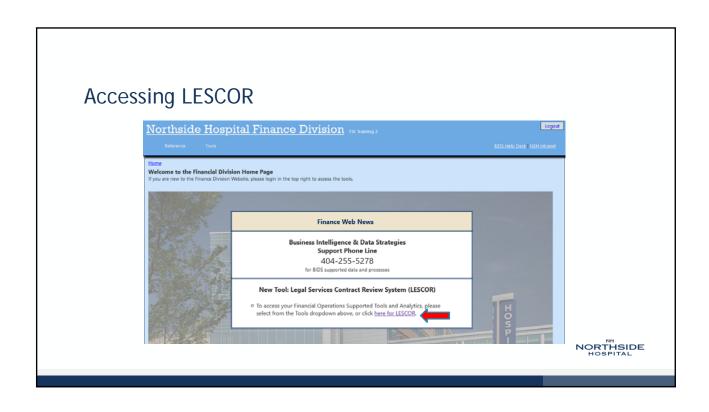




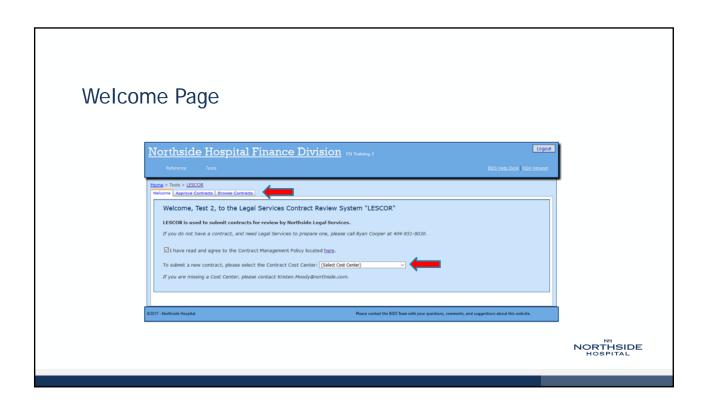


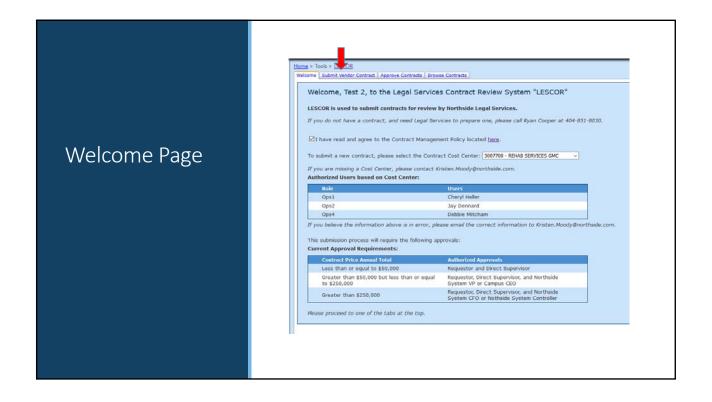






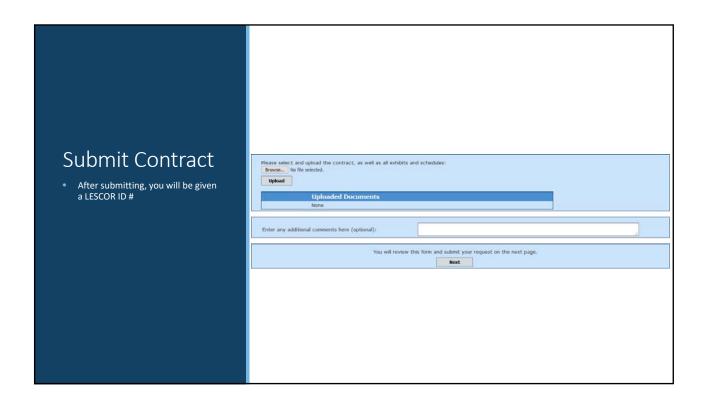


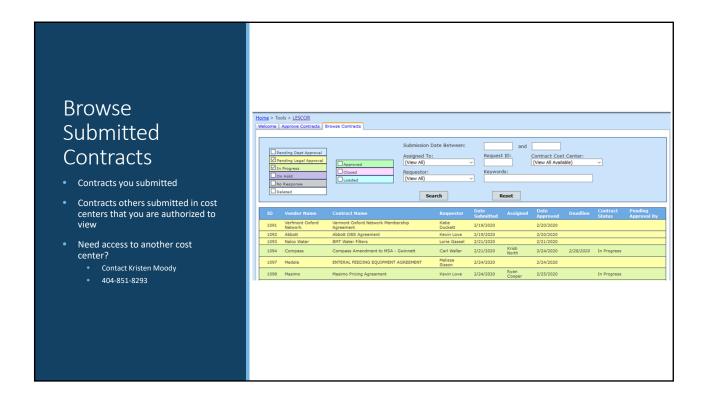


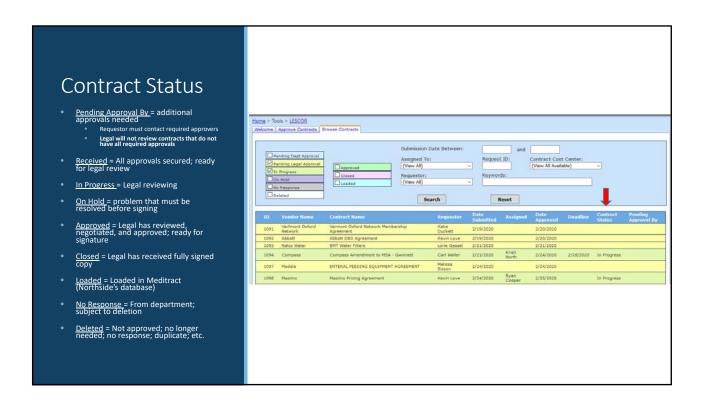








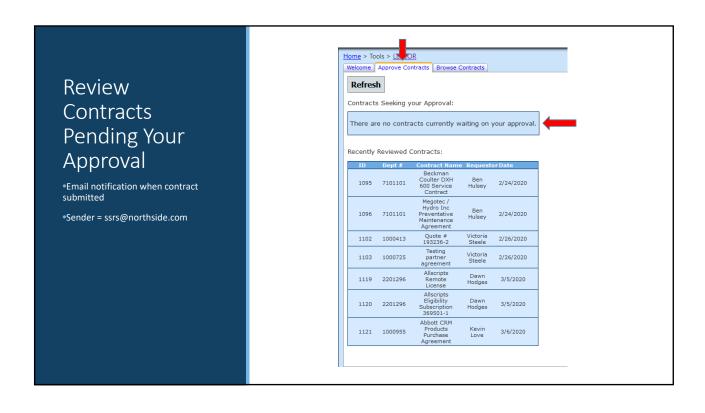


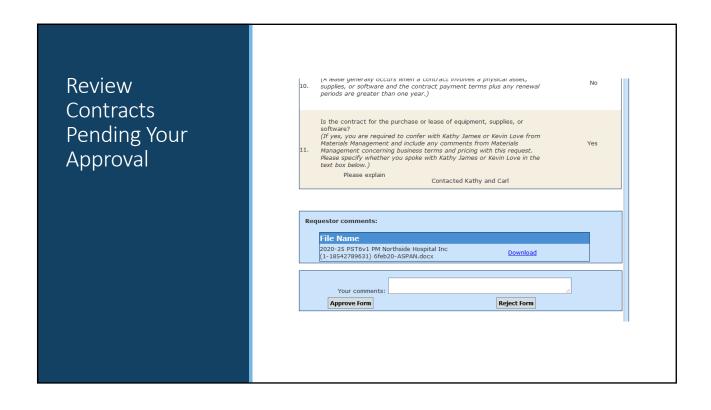


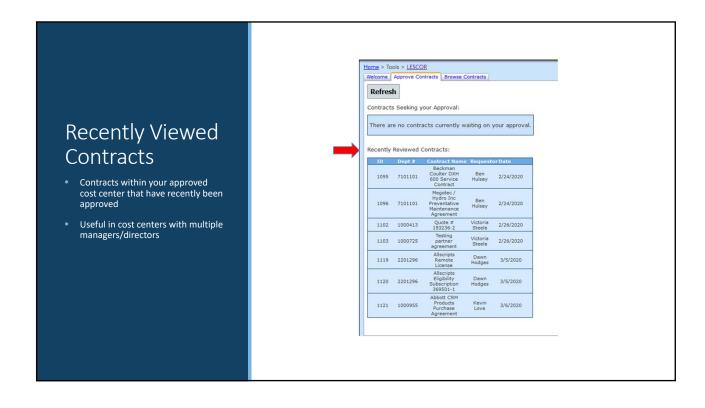
LESCOR Approval

- Contract is automatically routed to designated approvers
- Approvers are determined based on cost center and contract amount
- Other approvals may be required at the discretion of Legal if the contract impacts other departments or operations
- Examples:
 - Finance if not budgeted
 - Information Systems if security concerns
 - Compliance
 - Quality/Patient Safety & Medical Staff Office if new device or procedure
 - Supply Chain
 - Accounting if a lease

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Legal Review

- · Please be patient
 - 1 Legal Department for the entire system
 - Request as much in advance as you possibly can
 - Delays may be caused by responsiveness of Northside and outside parties
- During negotiation phase Requestor serves as liaison between Legal and the outside party
- Drafts/comments are confidential unless otherwise instructed
- NO SIGNATURE UNTIL LEGAL APPROVAL

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Signatures

- Requestor obtains signature of other party first
- Emails signed contract back to Legal
- Legal approves form for Northside signature
- 2 or 3 Northside signatures required based on contract amount (see Contract Management Policy)



Meditract

- Requestor is responsible for ensuring that Legal is provided a **fully** signed copy (all signatures on document)
- Email copy to deborah.cox@northside.com
- Include LESCOR ID #
- Contracts usually uploaded into Meditract within 3 business days of receipt
- Going forward all Gwinnett contracts will be uploaded into Northside's Meditract database
- Gwinnett Meditract database will be maintained for historical purposes



Other Important Points

- AP may refuse to make payment if this process is not followed
- Do not upload redlines/drafts in progress/ signed contracts back into LESCOR
 - Email drafts in progress to assigned attorney and reference LESCOR ID #
 - Email completed contracts to Deborah Cox and reference LESCOR ID #
- New vendor?
 - If PO (goods or services), first contact Supply Chain
 - If non-PO, first contact AP (Kim Williams or Rita Ethridge)
- Requestor and Approvers have primary responsibility for reviewing and negotiating business terms
- Do not forward emails from Legal or disclose comments on drafts unless Legal consents
- Dispute?
 - Contact Legal early and before withholding payment or communicating (orally/writing/email) with the other party concerning the dispute



Ouestions?

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New Leasing Guidance

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Northside Hospital System

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New Leasing Guidance and Impact to Northside/Gwinnett

- Northside/Gwinnett will record new lease assets and liabilities, as well as change the way certain expenses are reported.
 - Rent and supply expense may be reclassified to depreciation and interest expense
 - No material impact to departmental bottom lines
- Compliance will be a key area of focus during annual financial statement audit.
 - Identification of all potential leases is critical
- LESCOR system serves as a control to ensure compliance.

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What is a Lease?

- A lease generally occurs when a contract involves a physical asset, supplies, or software and the contract payment terms plus any renewal periods are greater than one year.
- A lease also occurs when we receive a physical asset at no cost in exchange for committing to purchase a minimum amount of supplies / disposables.
 - Equipment placement agreement
- Key takeaways:
 - A contract that contains a lease may not be explicitly identified as a lease.
 - Please be mindful of renewal periods.



Annual Attestation

- All LESCOR users will complete an annual attestation in Net Learning to confirm adherence to the Contract Management Policy (including identification of all leases).
- Details to follow later this year.



Questions about leases?

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