Because LTACH uses paper MARs which are printed daily and hand-written orders, new orders aren’t immediately on the radars of the nursing staff. For most of us this is a major change in mindset and process. In order to get everyone on the same page, here are the steps to follow for new LTACH orders processed at Pineville.

Once the order has been faxed into the RightFax queue by the nurse/secretary, you can discard the original written order. If the order is not faxed into the RightFax queue within a reasonable timeframe, call the floor and again ask the nurse/secretary to fax the order. If medication needs to be sent, there is no need to wait for the order to show up in the RightFax queue before contacting MedSpeed or releasing the medication to someone who comes over and picks it up.

I re-reviewed the module. My biggest question is capture in point 2b below. How is the pharmacy notified to look for a PowerNote? It looks like that is still up in the air. I sat down with Conrad, Steve, and Jing to get a feel for what communication about chemo orders looks like now. Their response was that it varies. Sometimes we have a lot of notification. Other times the orders just show up. Who do we need to engage from Heme/Onc to address the communication piece?

Conrad is still skeptical about the legality aspect. His fear is that a) PowerNotes are just text documents that aren’t signed. I talked about e-prescribing and outpatient and how all of that is 100% electronic. He’s also afraid that any provider can just type “ORDER” at the top of a note and call it an order. I reiterated Dragos’s point that this is confined to a limited number of Chemotherapy specific notes. We will not accept any other progress notes as orders under any circumstances unless we hear otherwise from clinical leadership.

When I made this change, I kept your request of every other weekend in mind. You hadn’t requested a specific weekend, at least not that I can find. The only thing altered was the rotation. With you and Ashlie unavailable on back to back weekends, we needed to adjust the rotation to meet the needs of the department. If there is a specific set of weekends you are unable to work, I need that information before I make the schedule. I did not have any specific requests aside from the weekend you are off.

I’m sorry if I made you feel devalued or unimportant. That was never my intention. I also didn’t mean to imply that any of this was your fault. You are correct that I was wrong to not address this change with you sooner. That was unfair to you. I appreciate your feedback and will remember that going forward. I am more than willing to try to work with you to find a path through this. I’m not trying to push anyone out of the department. However, if you feel like this situation is irreconcilable, I respect your decision to resign.

Ashleigh was working every other weekend. I published the 9/27/20-11/7/20 schedule on 9/13/20. She was unhappy with a scheduling change I made in October to accommodate her request for time off. I scheduled her and another technician (that works the opposite weekend) to swap their rotations. She was upset when I told her she could ask teammates if they would trade weekends with her if she was unable to work them herself. This was not an acceptable situation for her. After a few emails, Ashleigh resigned on 9/15/20 with her last day being 9/29/20.

Second (and the real purpose of this email)- the attached report is from OR2 at Huntersville on Friday, September 18th. All of the patients used to pull medications were done on an incorrect encounter. None of the patients were added at temp patients. All of the charges from Friday bounced back in EPIC and now have to be hand keyed, both the credit on the incorrect encounter and the charge on the correct one. I understand that adding the patients is a pain. I understand that this has been a long process to get it corrected. Pulling medications on the wrong encounter, however, shouldn’t be a work around, should it?

Unfortunately, that will not work. The casters are not a good idea and would need to come off. At that point, the cart is too short, the shelves are too close together, and it isn’t deep enough. The hood needs to rest somewhere between 34”-36” off the ground. We are losing 6”-8” when the casters come off, putting it about a foot short. Could we get a support that has shelves at least 8” apart? The bins that we will use are 7” tall. Removing the casters would also put the bottom shelf on the ground. I’d need that to be ~10” above the ground for ergonomic reasons. The hood is at least 3’ deep. We may not need a support with full depth, but at least 12” short feels like too much.

Also, the hood is somewhere in the 400-500lbs range. Is that cart, or one with the dimensions we need, strong enough to support that?

Originally we looked at a table with shelves on one side. That is where the center gap came from. That was killed due to the power coat paint. Now that we can’t use it, can we get shelves the full width of the hood?

Didn’t intend for that to be such a downer email.

This past week I had an Anti-Xa level drawn. The typically long delays associated with them made me wonder if it was due to the blood sitting downstairs for an extended amount of time. Steve called the lab and got the list below. Each timespan listed is the roughly when the run is supposed to leave. There are a lot of scheduled courier runs taking samples to Core Lab/CMC/where ever else they go. M-F has very consistent pick-ups around the clock. There is, however, a pretty wide gap from 1730 to 0415 on the weekend.

If Atrium is buying and distributing, is it worth thinking about a process where we can donate our free sets to someone else in the division, if we choose to do so? I’ll probably have mine bought before Atrium gets around to doing whatever is decided and pushed out. I’d also rather someone who needs the scrubs get them than they sit in a drawer unused. If it is a reimbursement model, this goes out the window.

Brendan used to work for me here at University. He was here as an Atrium tech during our XT conversion and as an Omnicell employee during CPM conversion. He’s good and will be a breath of fresh air in comparison to previous Omnicell experiences. I reached out to him and he’s going to try and maneuver to get the University brain swap. So, assuming they get the equipment, it may be completed that same week.

We are still finalizing the process for the patient assistance program (PAP) medications. There is one step in the preliminary draft that I’d like to make you aware of. For the medication to be replaced (and free for the patients), the lot and exp need to be recorded. It was decided that the easiest way to centralize this was via an intervention. Please see the image below for instructions. It isn’t anything wild or complex.

We will soon be providing methohexital 100mg syringes for Huntersville surgery center to use during their ECT cases. They are designed to be refrigerated to achieve the BUD labeled on the syringe. Stocking them only in the fridge in PACU/PreOp isn’t a good option for their workflow. I had to find an alternative.

Thankfully, CMC Mercy already did the heavy lifting. Per the attached document from QuVa, we can assign a 15 day BUD for room temperature storage. This allows us to stock a supply of them in the anesthesia work stations. As a backup, 1) we will continue to stock the 500mg methohexital bottles in the Omnicell and 2) will we keep a small stock the either the PreOp or PACU fridge. To reduce waste, my intention is for them to *almost* stock out and utilize the backup supply *before* we refill the AWSs.

This  will not begin until either Thursday (11/19) or Friday (11/20), depending upon when I can get out there to set the AWSs to receive the restocks. I tagged everyone in this email in case you get questions.

I have a question about the pick-up window. Does that mean we have that entire window to be ready, your team has that entire window to arrive, or some combination of both? We had a situation this morning where a driver was unwilling to wait for us to finish packing a tote, and we ultimately had to call for an additional courier. I need to know if we need to adjust our workflow to meet the commitments of this schedule or if the drivers need to have more flexibility while we get things ready. Any guidance is greatly appreciated.

Many of you are aware that I looking at our expired medications for a leadership project. I won’t bore you with the details (though feel free to ask). This is just a reminder to please put **ALL non-controlled expired medications** in the box in my office. This includes medications in manufacturer packaging, 503B (Nephron, SCA, etc.), IVs…everything. I removed the box on the back counter because I found some things in it that weren’t documented.