







HEIGHTENED INFORMATION SECURITY PROCEDURE

Summary of Changes

	NEW	Previous
All Sites	Introduction of 3 types of privacy flags (Visitor Status, VIP Status, and Denial of Access) for application in Cerner CST EHR, principles for how to apply the flags and where in the EHR the flags are shown.	NOTE: Depending on the capabilities of existing systems, Visitor Status flags and/or VIP flags may already be in use. As well, Staff training informs them of how to apply the Visitor and VIP status flags.
VCH		
PHC		
PHSA		Policy/procedure for C&W build of Cerner

Dalassad.	New Deview	Dans 1 of 14
Released.	NEXT REVIEW:	Page 1 of 14

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Heightened Information Security Procedure

1. Introduction

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), Providence Health Care (PHC) and Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) have ethical and legal obligations to protect personal information about their patients through the implementation of privacy and security safeguards as well as policies to protect health information in their custody and control. VCH, PHC & PHSA recognize the importance of accommodating patients who may request or require additional privacy or security precautions on their information and therefore the heightened security flags are available to apply to their records at Cerner sites to support safe and effective care.

This procedure defines the three **heightened information security flags** (i.e. **Visitor Status Flag**, **VIP Indicator Flag** and **Denial of Access Flag**), provides directions for applying the flags and identifies the location in the CST Cerner electronic health record (EHR).

1.1. Health Organization Site Applicability

This procedure applies to all VCH, PHC and PHSA (Health Organization – HO) sites that have implemented the CST Cerner EHR. Please be aware of any site-specific process documents as listed in section 3.1.

1.2.Practice Level

This procedure is a basic level practice for all staff.

1.3. Definitions

Authorized Person – means a person in a leadership role responsible to support clinical teams with decision-making and includes Risk Management or Privacy team members. Leadership titles may differ within Health Organizations, but may include roles such as Clinical Coordinators, Clinical and Operational Leaders, Leaders on Call, Patient Care Managers, Operations Managers, Program Directors, Department Heads, etc.

Encounter Level Flag – means a notification in Cerner that is attached at the encounter level for the duration of the current **patient** visit. Once the patient has been discharged, the flag is automatically removed.

Denial of Access Flag – means a notification in Cerner that is used to prevent a named user from accessing a specific patient's records (e.g. a patient wants to prevent their ex-spouse, a Cerner user, from accessing their record). If the named user attempts to access records, a warning message is displayed indicating that access to this patient's record is denied.

Patient – Refers to patient, client, resident or person in receipt of healthcare or their authorized representative (e.g. substitute decision makers acting on behalf of incapable patients).

Person Level Flag – means a notification in Cerner that is attached at the person level for the current and all future patient visits. The flag remains on the record until manually removed.

Staff - means all employees (including management and leadership), medical staff (including physicians, midwives, dentists and nurse practitioners), residents, fellows and trainees, health care professionals, students, volunteers, contractors, researchers and other service providers engaged by VCH, PHC or PHSA.

Very Important Person (VIP) Flag – means a notification in Cerner that designates a patient who, for some site-defined reason, requires heightened privacy/security. This flag is used for high profile patients as well as patients who require additional privacy/security.

Visitor Status Flag – means a notification in Cerner that indicates that the patient has requested, or has been determined by an **Authorized Person**, to not receive visitors, phone calls, or deliveries during their stay.

2. Heightened Information Security Flags Procedures

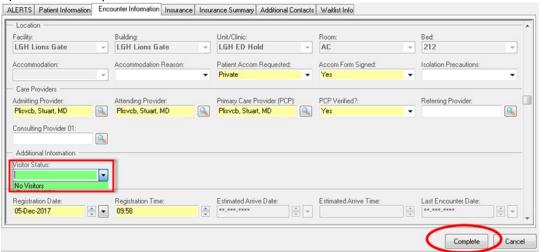
2.1. Visitor Status Flag

2.1.1 What Staff Need to Know

- a. Any **patient** can request to have the 'No Visitors' flag placed on their health record at any point during their encounter for any reason.
- b. When the patient initiates the request for the flag, they can also ask for it to be removed at any point during their encounter.
- c. This is an encounter-level indicator that must be updated at each visit.
- d. The visitor status field will default to 'No Visitors' when the patient's Very Important Person (VIP) flag is set to 'Yes'. This will apply to every encounter until the VIP status is manually changed.
- e. Setting a visitor status of 'No Visitors' will not suppress the patient name from displaying on Patient Locator, Tracking Boards or Patient Lists.
- f. When visitor status of 'No Visitors' is applied, any person who calls inquiring about the patient must be told "we have no information on that patient".
- g. If a patient requests the flag, but still would like to allow certain visitors (e.g. family), they must communicate that information to their care team, who will document the information in the patient's EHR, in the *Planning in the Team Communication* section of the handoff tool.
- h. This flag also responds to the need to provide heightened privacy/security as directed by an **Authorized Person**. Staff will apply the flag as directed. In these instances, the flag will not be removed unless approved by the Authorized Person who made the initial request or by another Authorized Person.

2.1.2. Applying the Visitor Status Flag

- 1) Launch any Registration conversation from either (Person Management) PM Office or PowerChart.
- 2) Go to the 'Encounter Information' tab.
- 3) Change the Visitor Status to 'No Visitors'.
- 4) Click on 'Complete'



- 5) View the flag in the locations mentioned in Appendix A: Visitor Status Flag Locations
- 6) Tell any person who calls inquiring about the patient, "we have no information on that patient".

2.2. Very Important Person (VIP) Flag

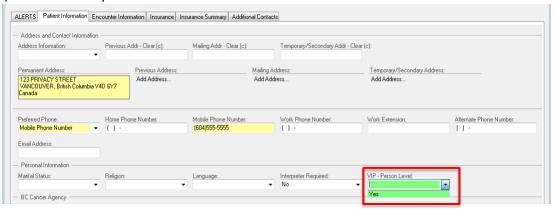
2.2.1 What Staff Need to Know

- a. The VIP flag must only be used in limited situations where the patient is at a higher risk of likely harm if their location or health information is disclosed. For example:
 - i. High "curiosity" Patients, such as celebrities, politicians, athletes, high-profile individuals.
 - ii. Patients who are prone to significant reputational risk.
 - iii. Patient/employee safety prisoners, gang related, victims of crime.
 - iv. Internationally protected persons.
- b. The flag is not meant to be applied for Staff unless they are at a higher risk of likely harm. If a staff is concerned that coworkers will access their record, then they should contact their Privacy Office to discuss. Audits will be done on request.
- c. When the VIP Flag is applied, the patient record will be subject to additional audit.
- d. In the 'Patient Information' tab the VIP Status can be modified in any Registration conversation, such as 'Register Patient to a Bed' or 'Register Outpatient'.
- e. When the VIP Flag is applied, the patient's name will not appear on Tracking boards.
- f. The VIP Flag will automatically set the Visitor Status to 'No Visitors'.

- g. This Flag is applied at the 'person level' and will apply to each future encounter unless manually removed.
- h. Third Party Request for VIP Flag:
 - i. When a request for a VIP Flag is made for a patient by a third party (e.g. law enforcement, corrections officer) to staff, the request should be forwarded to an Authorized Person for approval. The Authorized Person will follow up with the requestor if required.
 - ii. Registration staff, Unit Coordinators, or other staff will apply the VIP Flag as directed by the Authorized Person.

2.2.2 Applying the VIP Status Flag

- 1) Launch the conversation from either PM Office or PowerChart.
- 2) Go to the 'Patient Information' tab.
- 3) Change the 'VIP-Person Level' status to 'Yes'.
- 4) Click on 'Complete'.



5) View the Flag in the locations mentioned in Appendix B: VIP Status Flag Locations

2.3. Denial of Access Flag

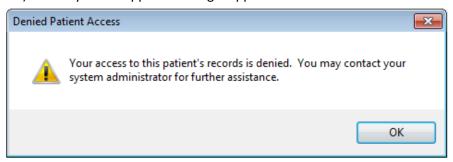
2.3.1 What Staff Need to Know

- a. The HO Privacy Office will manage the request. If the request is approved, the HO Privacy Office will apply the flag.
- b. The Denial of Access Flag is applied at the 'person' level and will remain on the record until it is manually inactivated or has reached its pre-defined end-date.
- c. This flag is not meant to be used to deny access to more than one user. For example, the following requests cannot be accommodated:
 - i. A patient requests that only their physician has access to their record; or
 - ii. A patient requests that access be denied to their ex-spouse, as well as all their exspouses work colleagues, who are all Cerner users; or
 - iii. A patient requests that all their co-workers be denied access to their record.
- d. If the named user attempts to access the patient's record in PowerChart, a warning message will be displayed indicating access to this patient's record is denied.

2.3.2 Applying the Denial of Access Flag

Staff emails corresponding HO Privacy Office (based on the patient's admitted location) to request a Denial of Access Flag:

- a. For PHC: privacy@providencehealth.bc.ca
- b. For PHSA: privacyandFOI@phsa.ca
- c. For VCH: privacy@vch.ca
- 2) Privacy Office applies the flag if approved.



2.4.Documentation

- 1) Since all flags are applied in EHR, there is no additional documentation.
- 2) If a patient requests the flag, but still would like to allow certain visitors (e.g. family), they must communicate that information to their care team, who will document the information in the patient's EHR, in the Planning in the Team Communication section of the handoff tool.

2.5. Patient Education

1) If a patient asks to have their privacy protected, Staff will tell the patient they can have a 'no visitor flag' applied to their visit which means they will not receive visitors, phone calls, flowers or other deliveries during their stay.

3. Related Documents and References

3.1.Related Documents

<u>Client Privacy – HIM Registration Standards</u> Internationally Protected Persons/Very Important Persons Policy (VCH/PHC)

3.2.References

Privacy: VIP and Visitor Status - CST Cerner Help

Discussion Paper - Development of Heightened Client Information Security Protocols. Apr 20, 2015.

Patient/Client Privacy – Registration Standards & Data Quality. April 13, 2017 v. 1.2.

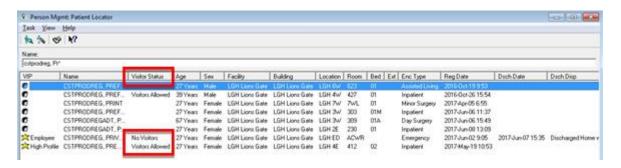
CST Learning Team. Privacy – Denial of Access, 2018.

4. Appendices

4.1. Appendix A: Visitor Status Flag Locations

The Visitor Status Flag is displayed as follows:

a. Person Management (PM): Patient Locator



b. PM Office: Bedboard



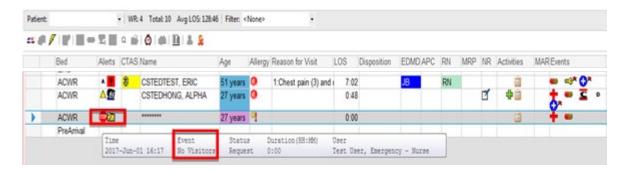
c. PowerChart: Patient Lists



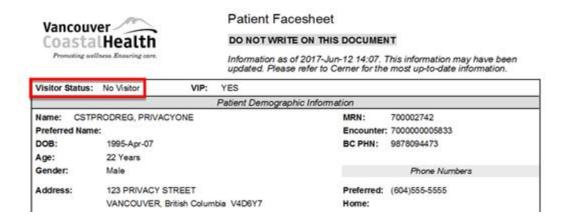
d. PowerChart: Tracking Board and PowerChart Maternity: Tracking Board



e. FirstNet: Tracking Board



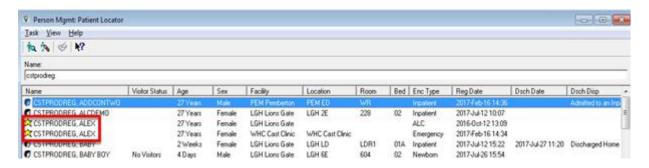
f. Reports: Registration Facesheet



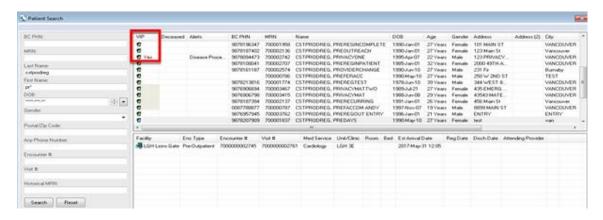
4.2. Appendix B: VIP Status Flag Locations

The VIP Flag is displayed in the following places:

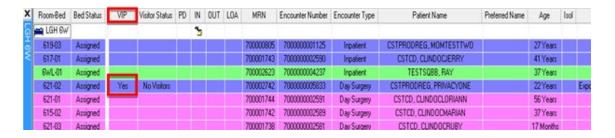
a. PM Patient Locator



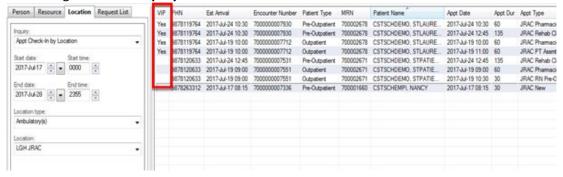
b. Person Search Window



c. PM Office: Bedboard



d. Scheduling: Schedule Inquiry



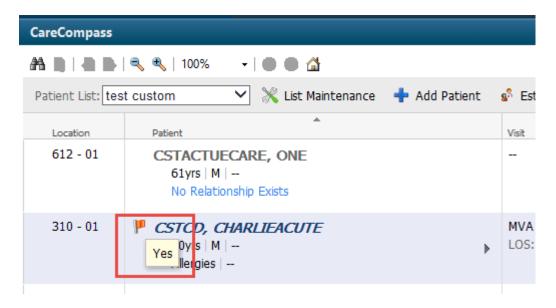
e. PowerChart: Patient List



f. PowerChart: Patient Demographics tab



g. PowerChart: CareCompass



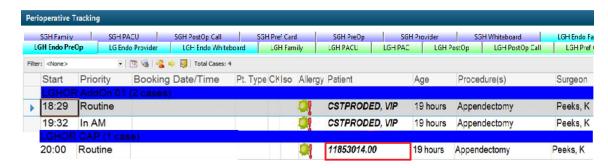
h. PowerChart Maternity: Tracking Board



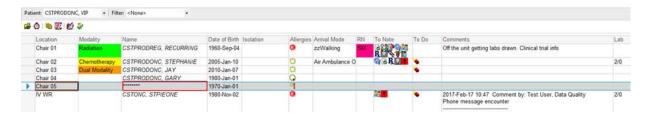
i. FirstNet: Tracking Board



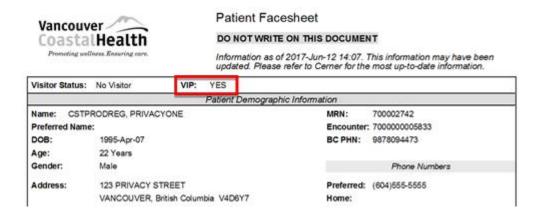
j. SurgiNet Perioperative Tracking Board



k. PowerChart Oncology: Tracking Board



I. Reports: Registration Facesheet



m. On tracking boards, the patient name will be masked with an asterisk (or numbered alias in SurgiNet) and the alerts column will be populated with a designated VIP icon.

Last page of the Standard Operating Procedure document

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