



*The SHN-CAPHC Paediatric Medication
Reconciliation Collaborative*

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*Safer Health Care Now! And The Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres
Paediatric Medication Reconciliation Collaborative*

Orientation and Training Workshop, August 9th to 10th, 2005

Executive Summary

Every year thousands of Canadian children will suffer unintentional complications and adverse events from medication errors. A number of children and youth will tragically lose their lives.

Safer Health Care Now! under the auspices of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, is an ambitious Pan-Canadian campaign to implement six evidence-based patient care interventions aimed at reducing unintentional adverse events. This quality improvement initiative is part of a major international effort that builds upon the work of the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) "100,000 Lives Campaign" in the United States.

Medication reconciliation in paediatric services presents special challenges. Most paediatric patients are too young to provide accurate reports of the medications they are using; for youth there are issues related to privacy and consent and for new Canadians, language barriers often prevent parents from assuming this role. These unique circumstances call upon the special knowledge and experience of the paediatric health care community to collectively lead the way.

The Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) Medication Reconciliation Collaborative is a Safer Health Care Now! partner whose mission is to reduce medication errors through a national medication reconciliation strategy. The Collaborative represents over 25 Canadian health centres, including all children's hospitals in Canada and many more health care centres that provide services to children and youth.

Medication reconciliation, one of the six Safer Health Care Now! Campaign patient safety interventions, is used to prevent medication errors at all points of transitions of care. Medication reconciliation involves clearly and accurately documenting patient medication usage and reconciling discrepancies.

Its ultimate goal is to reduce adverse drug events (ADE's). Research has shown that 70% of medication errors can be eliminated when medication reconciliation is implemented.

On August 9-10, 2005, over seventy interdisciplinary child and youth health professionals from across Canada participated in CAPHC's Paediatric Medication Reconciliation Orientation and Training Workshop. Building upon the work and leadership of Canada's Institute of Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) in this area, this interdisciplinary national paediatric team came to





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consensus on the following timelines, strategies and procedures for the four stages of the Campaign:

1. **September to October 2005:** Getting started and launching a successful campaign within your Site; developing teams and engaging key stakeholders.
2. **November to December 2005:** Collecting baseline data; establishing the groundwork for monitoring and evaluating outcome.
3. **January to March 2006:** Implementing the pilot phase; understanding how processes can be changed to ensure successful implementation and integration.
4. **April to October 2006:** Implementing medication reconciliation as a regular quality improvement practice and evaluating the results.

At the close of the workshop, Elaine Orrbine, CEO of CAPHC, congratulated the group on their collective wisdom and collaboration in setting the stage for a national paediatric medication reconciliation strategy. Elaine reiterated that everyone, CEO's, senior administrators, managers and all front-line healthcare professionals have an important leadership role to play as part of this national paediatric team.

CAPHC is strongly committed to provide leadership and support to all participating healthcare organizations. Teams within each health care centre will not be working alone. All teams will be able to draw from each other's expertise and will have ongoing support from both CAPHC's Paediatric Medication Reconciliation National Coordinator, JoAnne Whittingham, and the National Safer Health Care Now! Campaign's communication, education and evaluation resource teams.

As the first Canadian paediatric community of practice to launch a national medication reconciliation quality improvement initiative, our Canadian paediatric community is breaking new ground and leading the way! The success of this Campaign will depend upon the commitment and collaboration of each of our participating organizations.

CAPHC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all workshop participants and extend our sincerest appreciation to all the senior management teams at our participating organizations.

My sincerest appreciation to all!

Elaine Orrbine
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) www.caphc.org
Association Canadienne Des Centres De Santé Pédiatriques(ACCSP)

