Emergency Department Cerner Implementation of First Net

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is First Net?

A: First Net is the Emergency Department’s application of Cerner. We will be using this application together with Virginia Mason Memorial. A team from Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle and one from Virginia Mason Memorial collaborated to build functionality that will work well across both health systems. First Net is the Emergency Department’s application of Cerner. First Net brings new efficiencies to Virginia Mason Memorial in it will be fully integrated with the inpatient record and in Phase II (October 2018) will be integrated with the Family of Services.

Q: Is the implementation of Cerner First Net going to impact the flow/throughput of patients?

A: The new Cerner process is meant to be more simplistic and streamlined to Emergency Medicine flow. We are working to eliminate the number of different windows needed to place orders and chart. The new program is being designed to prevent confusion on where to chart, creating accuracy and efficiency.

Q: How will this make my job easier?

A: This should streamline the charting process. First Net was built with our current nursing flow in mind. Most charting aspects can be found from the tracker board, eliminating the need for multiple clicks to chart one thing.

Q: Will we still be using Patient Care Map?

A: Yes we will still be using Patient Care Map. While there have been some adjustments to the layout, the RN will still be charting all previously required elements. Adjustments to patient care map were made so the RN could easily go to one place to chart items rather than multiple places to chart the same field.

The Patient Care Map (PCM) is a Cerner nursing documentation tool that allows direct entry of patient information.
using flowsheets. It provides an accurate and clear picture of the patient’s stay through transitions of care from admit to discharge. Additionally, some of the information (such as vitals) is interfaced from physiologic monitors.

**Q: What are the new capabilities from the old charting system?**

A: In First Net there will be many new charting capabilities. A few examples include specific pediatric and adult triage forms, icons associated with tasks the Providers are ordering which is a quick visual cue to team members to know what outstanding tasks need to be completed for the patient. Also billable supplies will become automated once the order is placed into First Net by the Provider.

You might notice other specific patient populations that we do not see frequently at Virginia Mason Seattle. This is because we are partnering with Virginia Mason Memorial and making one cohesive electronic medical record between the two facilities.

Notable points for VMM staff new to Cerner: Inpatient units and admitting physicians can see all of our charting electronically, safety features such as our MAR flowing to the inpatient MAR for medication tracking, vital sign integration with the Drager Monitors, external pharmacy med lists being able to be viewed and pulled in to our ED chart. Medications will be given using Barcode Scanning checking the five rights of medication administration.

**Q: When is the implementation taking place?**

A: With a launch target of **October 2017**, teams from IT, Informatics, Clinical Operations and Cerner are currently engaging in more than 100 "sprints," or intensive two-week sessions running concurrently to design, build and test multiple facets of the system. We will be communicating the training plan with the details and hope to start in early September.

At VMM, we are scheduled to start training on the new system in August. More details to come for dates and times.

**Q: Who can I contact for questions or concerns?**

A: Please contact Ashley Tipton or Ashley Burnside for Virginia Mason in Seattle and Sarah Downen or Allen Kautzman with questions related to our transition to Firstnet.