

**Welcome to the CRT Update** – a Community Health Services (CHS) newsletter written and distributed by the Community Resource Team (CRT).

If you have questions about any items in the CRT Update:

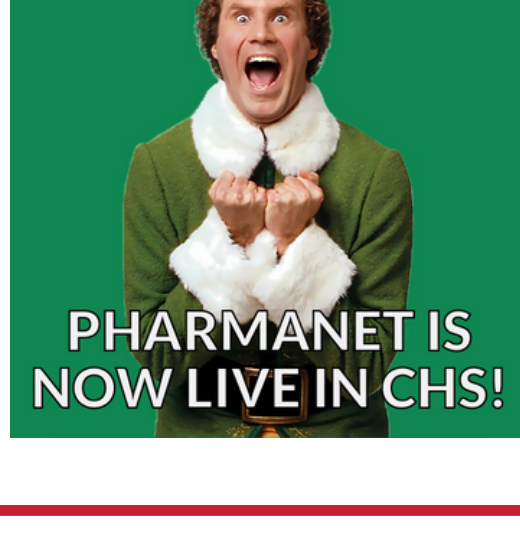
1. Ask your leadership for further clarification.
2. Ask your leadership to contact CRT: [chs.crt@islandhealth.ca](mailto:chs.crt@islandhealth.ca)

## Feature Article

### PharmaNet is Now Live in Community Health Services!

PharmaNet is a helpful source of information when completing a client's Best Possible Medication History (BPMH), and it is now accessible to CHS nurses through PowerChart!

For important information about the software and for next steps to get access, [click here](#).



### Safety Alert: Bed Rails and Air Mattresses

When bed rails and air mattresses are prescribed simultaneously, there are increased entrapment risks for Island Health clients. The increased risk of entrapment is associated with an enlarged space between the mattress and the side rails of the bed, caused by compression of the air mattress surface. When these products are used, Health Canada recommends that steps be taken to ensure the therapeutic benefit outweighs the risk of entrapment.

Clinicians need to use clinical judgement when prescribing these equipment items, remaining aware of the risks; prescribing clinicians can include Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Nurses. For more information, Health Canada has published a number of [guidelines around entrapment](#).

### Hazardous Drugs Safety in CHS Update

While CRT continues to work on implementing the [BC Hazardous Drugs Exposure Control Program \(ECP\)](#) within CHS, the [Interim Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) will remain in place to ensure staff are protected from inadvertent exposure to hazardous drugs. These interim measures will continue until the CHS-specific education and resources have been distributed and staff have integrated the new processes into daily workflows. At this time, staff should:

- Complete the provincial Hazardous Drugs education module applicable to your role (found on the [Hazardous Drugs Safety in CHS intranet page](#) under "Learning and Education Materials").
- Continue to use the [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#) to guide PPE selection when a client's hazardous drug status has not yet been determined.
- Nurses: continue to review client medications in the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) against the [Provincial Hazardous Drug List](#) and update the [Staff Safety & Awareness Plan \(SSAP\)](#) if a hazardous drug is identified.



### Stay Healthy This Fall: A Guide for Clinicians on COVID-19 Treatment Options

As we navigate the fall respiratory season, it's important for CHS clinicians to keep clients informed about COVID-19 treatments and how they can access them. Treatments like Paxlovid and Remdesivir are key in reducing hospitalization risks, if administered within seven days of symptom onset. Additionally, the [COVID Assessment and Treatment \(CATE\) Line](#) remains a valuable resource for clients without regular health care access or those experiencing delays with their family doctors.

Island Health also continues to offer the [Outpatient COVID-19 Therapeutics Clinic \(OCTC\)](#) for vulnerable individuals with early, mild, and moderate COVID-19 infection. This referral-based clinic is focused on intravenous therapies.

To support your efforts, the [CHS Viral Respiratory Illness \(VRI\) landing page](#) has up-to-date information on COVID-19 therapeutics. Let's work together to keep our community informed and healthy this season!

### Faxing Process Reminders and Updates

While digital communication has become more common, faxing continues to be a necessary practice in CHS. Regardless of how communication occurs, the sending party is always responsible for securing confidential information.

#### When faxing:

1. Review "Fax Communication" in the [Electronic and Fax Communication in CHS QRG](#).
2. Ensure the fax cover sheet only includes **to/from information** and a **confidentiality disclaimer**.
  - Client identifiers must be on the second page. Having client identifiers on the fax cover sheet constitutes a breach of privacy.
3. Use up-to-date fillable fax cover sheets found on [CHS forms](#), and discard any old versions.
  - Consider using the [Generic Fax Cover Form \(Admin 98\)](#), which will work with any type of clinical information.

If you are aware of other fax cover sheets that need updating or content changes, [email CRT](#).

### RAI-HC Learning Burst

In December, CRT will be presenting 5 repeat sessions of a brief learning burst on coding specific items in the RAI-HC. Correct RAI-HC coding ensures accurate outcome scales and algorithm scores, as well as credible information about client care needs. Correct coding also helps ensure clients receive the appropriate CHS, long-term care, and assisted living services that meet their care needs. Watch for more information to come soon, and if you administer the RAI-HC, please plan to attend a session!



### Temporary Policy Adjustments

### Education Calendar

### Update Archive

### Couple Reunification Priority in Campuses of Care

It is an Island Health priority to keep couples together when a move to a subsidized facility is required. If the spouses require different levels of care, Island Health will attempt to reunify them at the same subsidized campus of care facility that can cater to both clients (if it is an option in that community or identified as a care home choice). There are guidelines around qualifying for couple reunification in campuses of care.

[Read More](#)

### QA Virtual Seating Program Going Strong

The [Queen Alexandra Virtual Seating](#) program became available to all CHS in September 2023. The Queen Alexandra team reports positive outcomes for clients with complex seating needs who face barriers to traveling outside their community for specialized support. To help your clients access these services, follow the [CHS QA Virtual Seating Checklist](#) on the [Virtual Care Services webpage](#).

### 3 Thinking Hats of a Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy, & Continence

Learn more about the 3 thinking hats of a Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy, & Continence (NSWOC). Each thinking hat will provide practice information about the 3 focus areas of an NSWOC.

This month's article features information about the hydrophilic paste dressing Triad, the four different types of colostomies, and how to treat incontinence associated dermatitis. Look out for the fun word game included in this article, as well!

[Read More](#)



### Virtual Vibes: Care for Clients with COVID-19

Respiratory illness season is upon us, which means chronically ill and immune-compromised adult clients may be at increased risk of developing severe infection when contracting COVID-19.

Community Virtual Care's [COVID-19 Virtual Monitoring Program](#) provides remote patient monitoring support. Clients enrolled in the program may complete a daily monitoring plan to report on temperature and oxygen saturation multiple times a day and assess if their symptoms are improving or worsening. Community Virtual Care RNs monitor the data and alerts and can contact primary care providers to communicate changes in patient condition, if required.

[Read More](#)

### Say Hi to interRAI!

#### Monthly Tips for the interRAI Assessment Tools

The interRAI CA is submitted to CIHI via the Integrated interRAI Reporting System (IRRS), which collects comprehensive health information (demographic, administrative, and clinical) from different care settings in a single reporting system. In the near future, Island Health will also submit the interRAI HC and interRAI LTCF via this system.

interRAI's suite of instruments is built on a core set of assessment items that are important in all care settings. These standardized assessments provide a common language to assess the health status and care needs of individuals. They also provide a rich data source for planning and quality improvement.

See: [Integrated interRAI Reporting System \(IRRS\) Metadata \(CIHI\)](#)

## For Your Awareness

December 2 is.....

Women's Brain Health Day

December 3 is.....

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 6 is.....

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

### Caring Conversations

### "Where and how can we provide opportunities for collaboration and connection?"

This month's featured question from the Harm Reduction Team's Caring Conversation Cards is for you to reflect upon privately or with your colleagues. These questions were developed to encourage safe and meaningful conversations.

[Click here](#) to learn more about harm reduction principles.