One Person One Record – Clinical Information System (OPOR-CIS):

CARE DIRECTIVES

This guide is intended to provide an overview of **Care Directives** within the OPOR Clinical Information System (OPOR-CIS).

What is a Care Directive?

A **Care Directive** (CD) is **an order(s) or authorization** developed and approved by an authorized prescriber and the organization **for an intervention(s) to be implemented by another care provider** for a range of patients with specific conditions, in specific circumstances (NSCN, 2023).

There are specific guidelines developed by regulatory bodies outlining the rationale for development. Developing a CD is the responsibility of the clinical team who: identifies that there is an opportunity to streamline care for a specific population, with a specific condition, in specific circumstances.

What are the benefits of Care Directives?

- Provide **safe, timely, effective, and efficient client care**.
- **Optimize the scope of practice** of healthcare professionals.

NOTE: For healthcare professionals to implement a CD, interventions in the CD must be within their scope of practice and comply with the professional standards of practice and any other applicable legislation.

A Care Directive must include the following:

- The **client population** in which the CD applies
- A **description** of the intervention(s)
- **Name, date, and signature** of an authorized prescriber(s).
- Specific client **clinical conditions and situational circumstances** that must be met before the CD can be implemented.
- **Identification of the healthcare professionals** who can perform the intervention.
- **Prescriber availability**

- Specific **monitoring parameters and/or reference** to appropriate emergency care measures
- List of **contraindications** to implementation
- List of **educational requirements**
- Date and **confirmation of policy approval**

Care Directives within the OPOR-CIS

CDs will follow the same process for build and approval as the Order Sets. CD Order Sets will be prefaced with CD (care directive)-prefix of the area who created it-care directive name (i.e. CD-ED-Tetanus (care directive-emergency department-tetanus).

In the CIS, the healthcare professional will select the CD they are implementing. The application will display the inclusion/exclusion criteria, including the required information to ensure they are right person implementing the right CD, for the right patient. Orders are prechecked wherever possible.

The order type will be "Care Directive". The CIS requires a provider to be attached to all orders since results (lab, DI) – must go to a provider for reporting purposes. This functionality cannot be turned off.   It is important to note that providers do NOT co-sign a CD.

Reference

Nova Scotia College of Nurses (2023). Care Directive Guidelines retrieved from CareDirectives.pdf (nscn.ca)

Looking to find more information on Care Directives within OPOR-CIS?

Demonstration videos are available on the **opor.nshealth.ca** website.

Please contact angela.arra@nshealth.ca for any questions about **Care Directives** in the OPOR-CIS.

While this guide provides a brief overview, the **OPOR Education and Learning team** will prepare you with detailed content and experience leading up to the CIS implementation.

V1 (26 March 2024)