

# NIH Clinical Center CIO Newsletter

December 2008

35<sup>th</sup> Edition

This is the thirty-sixth edition of a monthly broadcast email to the CRIS user community about CRIS capabilities and issues. In addition to the text version in this email, I've attached a PDF version that can be printed. I look forward to receiving your comments or suggestions at [CIOnewsletter@cc.nih.gov](mailto:CIOnewsletter@cc.nih.gov). In addition, valuable information can be accessed at the CRIS and DCRI websites: <http://cris.cc.nih.gov>, <http://www.cc.nih.gov/dcri>.

## Topics of the Month

- CIO Remarks
- Upgrade and CRIS System Changes
- Perioperative Information System Update
- Mandatory Progress Notes in CRIS
- New Volunteer Payment System
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Database Development
- Security & Privacy
- User Training

## CIO Remarks

As we end 2008 we all recognize that we have much for which to be thankful.

This year DCRI's many accomplishments include successful implementation of **Inpatient Pharmacy, Epidemiology Information System, Point of Care Testing** in the operating suites; upgraded reports and processes for **Occurrence Reporting**; and a rollout of **ProtoType** to a much broader audience. In addition, we have done much to maintain and improve our infrastructure, including important upgrades to many of our **servers, interface engines** and **CITRIX**. We have also started several important projects, including a complete rebuild of the **NIH Clinical Data Center, Bar-Coding**, replacement of PYXIS units with **Omnicell** and many more.

All these projects have required a great deal of dedication and hard work from DCRI employees, as well as CC Staff from OD, Transfusion Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Procurement & Contracts, Hospital Epidemiology, Critical Care Medicine, PET, Pain & Palliative Care, Imaging Sciences, Nutrition, Medical Records, Protocol Services, NCI Anatomic Pathology, CIT & the NIH Office of the CIO, as well as all the ICs and most importantly you, our customers, the users of CRIS and all our other systems.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your dedication and hard work to improve information technology at the Clinical Center. I wish you all a wonderful and safe Holiday Season and a happy New Year.

Always remember CRIS is your system. Please use your voice to help us move forward. Send suggestions and comments to Dr. David Herion our CMIO at [DHerion@cc.nih.gov](mailto:DHerion@cc.nih.gov)

## Upgrade and CRIS System Changes

Our final dress rehearsal for the 5.0 upgrade revealed several issues which caused us to postpone the upgrade. As soon as these issues are resolved, we will announce a new upgrade date. In the meantime, routine creation or modification of protocol order sets, tests, clinical documentation, order forms, and other components were installed into the production environment during the week of 12/22. Depending on the revised upgrade date, there may or may not be additional production releases before the upgrade. Routine requests for work will be accepted for development, but they may not be implemented until after the upgrade process is completed. Emergency change requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

CDR Jeff McKinney, RN  
Chief, Configuration Management Office  
301-435-8517, [jmckinney@nih.gov](mailto:jmckinney@nih.gov)

## Perioperative Information System Update

The Department of Anesthesia and Surgical Services is in the process of implementing electronic clinical nursing and anesthesia perioperative documentation. All of the electronic documentation captured in POIS will be available on the Documents tab in CRIS. The project is expected to be completed in April 09.

Please post a Pre-anesthesia Clinic Visit, when you post a patient for an anesthesia or surgical procedure in SISWEB.

If you have any questions, please contact Nova Little at [nlittle@cc.nih.gov](mailto:nlittle@cc.nih.gov)

## Mandatory Progress Notes In CRIS

The Medical Executive Committee voted recently to require that all progress note documentation be completed in CRIS effective February 1, 2009 (rather than handwritten or typed outside of CRIS). CRIS currently provides several different progress note templates in both free text and structured note formats which may be utilized to document in patients' medical records. If you have any questions regarding CRIS progress note documentation or have a need for a new/modified template specific to your program, please contact Tricia Coffey in the Medical Record Department via email ([tcoffey@cc.nih.gov](mailto:tcoffey@cc.nih.gov)) or on 301-594-7410. Ms. Coffey can assist with coordinating training for you/your colleagues if necessary.

## **New Volunteer Payment System**

A new volunteer payment request system went live on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and is part of the new Research Volunteer System (RVS - rvs.cc.nih.gov) under development at the Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison office (PRPL). The patient payment module replaces and enhances the payment screens of the Hospital Services System (supply.cc.nih.gov) and allows for direct end user access to payment requests.

Payment requests now include an expanded section for entering payments via procedure, escort fees, and inpatient/outpatient status. These features provide the ability to record and maintain detailed financial payment records for auditing purposes. Users that prefer to pay patients using the general "lump sum" method may still do so; however, detailed transaction data will not be available. The system also includes the ability to request tracers for lost checks, stop-payments and replacement checks.

Access is controlled through your NIH login credentials. These are the same userid and password that access your NIH email and ITAS accounts.

RVS modules under development and scheduled for delivery this year are Protocol Advertising Strategies, Protocol Contact Management, Protocol Recruitment, and Protocol Screening. Together these form a comprehensive system for patient recruiting.

As the development process incorporates recommendations and acceptance testing from PRPL staff, protocol administrators and system administrators, we encourage feedback and comments about RVS. Please contact Mandy Jawara in the PRPL office at 301-402-6646 or Steve Bergstrom in DCRI at 301-496-3871.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Database Development**

4D is a user-friendly, relational database that allows for quick development and implementation of database back-ends and client-server front-ends when a larger database system would be unnecessary, costly, or too time intensive.

Currently, the Clinical Center hosts over a dozen databases developed by DCRI using 4D which span a range of uses. Our newest database, using 4D's latest technology, is the Universal Precautions application employed by Hospital Epidemiology. This application tracks all CC employees' Universal Precautions training compliance. It will also automate letters to those who are not in compliance, and track all letters sent and phone calls made to those individuals.

Two other databases which perform important work in 4D are SACRED and PROTRAK. SACRED is the Credentialing Office's primary database for maintaining a comprehensive list of all credentialed CC medical staff members, including information about their professional qualifications and patient care privileges. This database has become a foundation database that produces up-to-date files on clinicians that are used throughout the Clinical Center. PROTRAK is the Office of Protocol Services main database, which tracks all active onsite and offsite intramural protocols. Every element of each protocol is tracked throughout each protocol's lifetime. Over the years, the system has grown and it is now a very large and powerful database that tracks not just protocol information, but all accrual information, patient travel information, information on principal and associate investigators, as well as rare

diseases. PROTRAK also provides a comprehensive update to the NLM and clinicaltrials.gov on a nightly basis.

## Security & Privacy

IT security is especially important at this time of year. Many will try and separate you from your hard earned money by sending you emails requesting help or offering you a one in a million shot at riches. Be aware that most of these emails are SPAM and should never be replied to. Just delete them and don't open any website that may be contained within them. Opening up one of those websites could infect your computer with worms and viruses. This is especially true for your personal home computer. Be sure that you have virus protection running on your computer at home and that it is current. This alone will prevent a majority of computer related viruses. It is also important that you have some sort of firewall on your home computer, this will help in preventing an attacker taking over your computer or using your computer to attack someone else.

If you use your home computer for work related business or use it to access the NIH Network for work, you are entitled to free Virus protection software. Please see your user support person.

Ever get an email from a friend saying that something incredible has happened or that a major computer virus is about to hit that will destroy the world as we now know it unless you send it to 100 of your closest friends? Ever wonder if they are real before you send them to your friends? Do them and yourself a favor – check out one of these websites - <http://www.hoaxbusters.org/> or <http://www.snopes.com/> to see if it is true or a hoax. It will save you a lot of time and explaining to your friends.

The Clinical Center and NIH require everyone who remotely accesses the NIH, using VPN or Citrix to take the Securing Remote Computers training. This is excellent training for anyone, even if you do not remotely access the NIH. It will give you good information on protecting your home computer. You can access the training at <http://irtsectraining.nih.gov/> . You can even let your family and friends review this training as they can access it through the General Public User listed on the right side of the website. They will not need an NIH ID to take the training.

Have a happy and safe New Year

## User Training

5.0 Upgrade:

The CRIS 5.0 Upgrade has been postponed so training attendees continue to be trained on the CRIS 4.5 system. Please stay tuned and refer to the CRIS website at <http://cris.cc.nih.gov/> for further updates about the 5.0 Upgrade and downtime procedures. For your independent learning, a tutorial highlighting what's new and different in CRIS 5.0 can be viewed at [http://cris.cc.nih.gov/cristraining/SCM\\_50\\_Tutorial/CRIS\\_5\\_Upgrade\\_Tutor.htm](http://cris.cc.nih.gov/cristraining/SCM_50_Tutorial/CRIS_5_Upgrade_Tutor.htm)

## Spring 2009 CRIS Training Schedule:

The time is coming for spring class registration! The spring CRIS training schedule (time period February 2009 through June 2009) will be available on the CIT website (<http://training.cit.nih.gov/coursest.asp?lname=cris>) in early January. Questions about what CRIS classes to take and to register, contact CIT Help Desk at 301-594-6248. For additional questions or concerns, contact CRIS Support at 301 496-8400.

## Community Outreach:

The CRIS Booth outside the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor cafeteria on December 5<sup>th</sup> focused on the 5.0 Upgrade. This outreach was a huge success and included many user participants asking great questions about what to expect with CRIS 5.0. DCRI also participated in the Nursing Education Expo 2008 on December 11<sup>th</sup> to continue educating nursing staff about CRIS.



## CRIS Prescriber Online Training

A milestone has been reached! 200 prescribers have successfully completed CRIS online training. This training modality went live on April 25, 2008 and has been well received by participants. New prescribers coming to the Clinical Center can complete training at their convenience 24/7 prior to entry on duty.