IMPROVED PATIENT SAFETY: Dosing Alerts and Drug Interactions Enhancements

DOsing ALERTS AND RELATED FUNCTIONALITY
During the prescribing process an icon is displayed to alert you to dosing information. Hover over the icon for a summary of the dosing information, range suggestions and warning or click on the icon for detailed information.

NOTE: The new dosing feature has specific rules for entry.
- 140 character limit.
- No special characters such as (/ ( ) {}).
- No carriage returns.
Existing instructions that fall outside of the parameters will result in the warning to the left. At current you are not required to change the instructions to conform, but it is best practice to do so. Only conforming instructions can be checked by the dosing tool.

OVERRIDING A DOSING ALERT
Use if you determine that it is in the best interest of the patient’s care to override a dosing alert.
1. Click the dosing icon to open the Drug Dosing Suggestion form.
2. There you’ll have the opportunity to
   - Use the Monograph tool to investigate further
   - Click the Override button
   - Click Close button to close the window without making changes
3. Once you’ve clicked the Override button, the alert icon is changed to reflect that determination.
DRUG INTERACTIONS: Expanded Allergy and Adverse Reaction Categories

When recording allergies and adverse reactions, you may now choose from four Criticality (severity) types: Critical, Severe, Moderate, and Mild. Global Quick Texts have been added to the system to assist with choosing Criticality level.

.allergysev
MILD - Requires minimal therapeutic intervention (eg, D/C drug)
MODERATE - Requires active treatment of the adverse reaction or further testing or evaluation to assess the extent of the reaction but without a serious outcome (defined below)

.allergysev2
SEVERE - Any serious outcome, resulting in any of the following:
- Life- or organ-threatening situation
- Significant or permanent disability
- Requiring intervention to prevent permanent impairment or damage
- Requiring hospitalization
- Prolonging hospitalization
CRITICAL
- Reaction that met one or more of the criteria for SEVERE (see exception below)
- Reaction that would put the patient at a high enough risk of a SEVERE outcome that the drug should not be used in the future

Q: Why is a minor reaction currently marked as critical?
A: The allergy was recorded in EMR without a criticality level prior to the 9.2 or 9.5 upgrade and was auto categorized as “critical” during the upgrade.

Prior to the 2005 upgrade, there were no categories for allergies and adverse reactions.

With the 9.2 conversion, to maximize patient safety, any existing allergies not already categorized in Centricity 2005 were listed as “Critical” (as 9.2 only allowed for “Critical” or “Non-Critical” categories and using critical provided more assurance of patient safety). Allergies recorded in 9.2 were also set to default as “critical”.

Then Conversion of allergy and adverse reaction categories from 9.2 to 9.5 occurred as follows:
- “Critical” allergies/adverse reactions remain unchanged – stayed categorized as “Critical”.
  - This means uncategorized allergies from 2005 and prior that have not been changed since then are now categorized as “Critical” in 9.5, regardless of how serious they might be.
- “Non-critical” allergies/adverse reactions are categorized as “Moderate.”

Recommended Workflow for Refining Previously Charted Allergies and Adverse Reactions
While rooming patients, allergies and adverse reactions should be fully reviewed to be sure:
1. The allergy list contains all of the medications that the patient is allergic/intolerant to.
2. The criticality is correct.

How did this happen?

The Solution: Rooming staff reviews allergies and adverse reactions with patient and confirms categories based on the recommended criteria. (This will result in only truly “Critical” or “Severe” allergies/adverse reactions being labeled as such.)
OVERRIDING AN INTERACTION AND/OR CONTRAINDICATION

When allergies and adverse reactions are recorded and categorized correctly, the need to override them should be less common and much more relevant. The system performs interactions checking for drugs, allergies, diagnoses and specific patient characteristics (e.g. age) and generates alerts as necessary. Interactions that are Critical or Severe require a provider override. To perform an override:

1. Click the stop sign warning icon. This opens the Drug Interactions and Contraindications form.
2. Review the information provided.
   a. If you determine that overriding the alert is not appropriate at that time, click the Close button to close the window without making changes.

To proceed with the override,
3. Click the appropriate checkbox in the applicable line item(s).
4. Select the applicable Override Reason from those available in the dropdown list.
5. Add any additional information in the Override Comment field (comments required when choosing “other” in #4)
6. Click OK.
   (If you add something incorrectly, select it and then click the Remove button.)

The alert icon back in the New/Change Medication form will now be displayed as a yellow caution sign.

**Viewable On Medications Tab**

Once a prescription containing an Interaction/Contraindication override has been signed, it is also displayed on the Medication tab of the patient’s chart. Click directly on a medication in the left portion of the Medication tab window, and the override reason(s) are displayed in the lower right portion of the window.

Automatic interaction checking assists clinicians in evaluating a patient’s medication and allergy lists for potential adverse effects, contraindications, or allergic reactions to medications. Interaction alerts are provided for convenience only and are not intended to replace good clinical judgment and expertise. The clinician remains responsible for determining the actual impact to the patient.
NEW FEATURES IN THE NEW MEDICATION AND CHANGE MEDICATION FORMS

ASSOCIATE A MEDICATION WITH A PROBLEM

From the New Medication or Change Medication* form with the desired medication defined:

1. On the left side of the form, click the radio button to select Probs
2. In the Description field, the list of the currently defined active problems displays.
3. Click directly on the appropriate problem(s) to complete the association.
   - To select multiple problems after clicking the first problem hold down the Ctrl key then select additional problems.
   - If you accidentally click the wrong problem, click on it again to remove the link.
4. At the lower right, click the OK button to record the association.

Visibility

Once the problem has been associated it displays in the Diagnoses column on the Update Medications form. Associated problems are also displayed on the Medications Tab of the patient’s chart. Click directly on a medication in the left portion of the Medications tab window, and associated problems are displayed on the right, beneath the Instructions, Comments, and Refills.

Add a New Problem “On the Fly”

If the medication is to be associated with a new problem, the New Problem... button, is conveniently located in the lower left portion of the New/Change Medication form, making it easy to add a new problem on the fly.

Print the Associated Problem

Associated problems will be included in prescriptions newly generated (such as on the printed and faxed prescriptions), as well as subsequent refills of that prescription.

*To link problems to medications that already exist on the patient’s Medication List, navigate to the Update Medication form and use the Change... button. (Associations cannot be made in the Prescription Refills form.)
EASIER RECONCILING OF MEDICATIONS WITH MEDICATION HISTORY IMPORTING

In the Medication History form in EMR 9.5 you can reconcile the patient’s full medication history with the medication list in the HealthTeam EMR chart. Medication History form is accessed from the Update Medications form by clicking the Med Hx… button. Remember that a patient must consent to your accessing the medication history.

To add a medication from the prescribing network list to the Current Meds in Chart list, (Having acquired a patient’s Medication History and confirmed that a particular medication isn’t already in the patient’s HealthTeam chart):

1. Select the medication in the Medication Hx from prescribing network list.
2. The Add to Current Meds button becomes available – Click it
3. The Find Medication form will open, with the name of that medication in the Find field. Other fields (prescribing provider, instructions, etc) may also be prefilled if information is available.
4. Complete the form per usual for a historical entry and the medication will be saved to the patient’s EMR medication list.

SENSITIVE CHART ACCESS ENHANCEMENTS

“Sensitive Patient” charts now have pop-up box that requires a Reason for access be entered by any EMR user who does not have EMR privilege of full access to Sensitive Patient charts. What we have previously called “Sensitive Charts” are now called “Sensitive Patients” in Centricity EMR 9.5.

HELP!
Learn more about the new and enhanced features of Centricity EMR 9.5
1. In the EMR Tool Bar go to Help | What’s New.
2. Contact your clinic’s Super User.
3. Call the HIT Helpdesk at 353-0817