

Rapid Inventory Management Transformation: Concordia Hospital Family Medicine Unit

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Start Date: June 2010

Finish Date: October 2010

This is the first in a series of Inventory Improvement Projects using Rapid Transformation methodology and Lean tools.

As identified in the WRHA's Supply Chain Process Improvement Initiative Concept Paper*, opportunities exist to improve regional supply chain processes to ensure that supplies are deployed and utilized as efficiently and economically as possible. Effective inventory management and seamless flow of supplies to clinical areas is critical to the operations of the health care system.

In support of this initiative, the PMO has developed a Rapid Transformation Event Program.

A Rapid Transformation Event involves staff across functional areas and levels to work together to improve a process. Led by the Project Management Office, the Rapid Transformation Team uses Lean tools to define and implement solutions to eliminate waste. Problem definition, solution development and implementation occur during the Event duration. Events are 1 or 2 weeks in duration, depending on scope. Some investment in inventory infrastructure (bins, shelving) is often required. The intent is to offset these expenditures with savings in unit inventory reductions.

The Concordia Hospital Rapid Transformation Events will focus on eliminating waste in the form of excessive inventory and unnecessary motion accessing equipment in the Family Medicine Unit. Several events will be scheduled. Concordia Hospital staff will be trained in the methodology to sustain the gains achieved and to continuously improve processes. A PMO Process Engineer will be available for post event consultation to provide event recovery guidance.

*Submitted by Dan Skwarchuk, WRHA Executive Director Health Services Integration, On behalf of the Supply Chain Process Improvement Initiative Working Group.