NIH Clinical Center CIO Newsletter

June 2006

This is the fifth 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 .

Topics of the Month

- CIO Remarks: MIS 30 Years Later
- CRIS Upgrade
- Selecting Patients from Default Lists
- Order Revisions
- Security & Privacy
- New Perioperative Information System
- Medical Staff Contact Information
- CRIS User Training

CIO Remarks

On June 14, 1976 the NIH Clinical Center began live installation of the Medical Information System referred to as MIS. MIS was the central patient care system that allowed physician order entry, result reporting, medication administration and nursing documentation way before its time. The system provided access to patient data at rates difficult to repeat even after 30 years. At the time the concept of MIS was presented to the NIH Clinical Center Director, the implementation team gave its success a 50% chance according to Dr. Thomas Lewis, the former Associate Director of Information Systems and leader of the original MIS selection and implementation team. This is very good for a system that supported patient care for 30 years. A 1982 survey found MIS "to be one of the most fully automated and comprehensive systems now operating in a hospital, and in the past, has served in the role of prototype for such systems considered or installed by other medical centers," NIH Record, Aug. 31, 1982 & NIH Record, October 16, 2001 "http://www.nih.gov/news/NIH-Record/10_16_2001/story01.htm"

The significance of MIS was that, in the 80's, MIS allowed the NIH Clinical Center to reach the high ninetieth percentile of computerized physician order entry (CPOE) at a time few facilities had computerized order entry.   "What is most significant on the 30th anniversary is that a Nurse reporting for duty on 5-West on June 14, 1976 and still at the NIH Clinical Center could retire never having to deal with a manual system!" commented Jerry Macks, a member of the MIS implementation team. Though the major system was replaced in 2005, MIS is currently used for patient registration and admission, discharge and transfer management. In late Fall 2006 MIS and the Mainframe that supports it will be retired.

CRIS Upgrade

The CRIS support team is planning for another upgrade. Ongoing upgrades are an important part of system maintenance and improvement. The next upgrade is planned for the first calendar quarter of 2007. You will not see as many functional changes as with the last upgrade in January 2006. The major objective of this upgrade will focus on improving system performance and preparing for the impending implementation of a new pharmacy application that will be integrated with CRIS. We will continue to provide details on what you can expect with this upgrade in future communications.

Selecting Patients from Default Lists

Users need to be aware that CRIS will automatically point to the first patient listed on any default patient list selected whenever a user logs onto the system, or moves from list-to-list following logon. Therefore, please be very careful to note which patient is active upon login and be sure to select the specific patient from any list for whom you wish to enter orders or clinical documentation. The name of the current patient selected will always be displayed in the Information Bar at the top of each screen display in CRIS. In order to help assure proper patient selection, a new rule is being implemented in CRIS. At the time an order is submitted, CRIS will check to see if the requestor has been previously associated with the patient within CRIS e.g. as attending, consultant, ordering, etc. If no such prior association exists, CRIS will automatically prompt the requestor to verify that the correct patient has been selected before the order will be accepted.

Order Revisions

Certain Radiology Forms, (e.g. CT Studies) will now include recent relevant laboratory information, such as renal function studies to help prescribers determine the appropriateness of administering contrast media to their patients. Specific questions regarding contrast media will now require a response entry before such orders can be submitted and accepted in CRIS.

Security & Confidentiality

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) & Secure E-Mail

We should all know that an email containing identifiable patient information must be sent in a secure manner designed to protect patient confidentiality. For NIH and the CC, that means we must start using the new HHS PKI certificate to send secure email.

Currently, most CC users send secure email using the old, previously sufficient KMS certificate issued by CIT. However, KMS is a very old technology, well past its useful life support and will soon to be decommissioned by CIT which will leave the HHS-mandated PKI certificate as the only approved means to send secure email.

If you are currently sending secure email (using the CIT KMS certificate) and do not have a PKI certificate, you will be contacted within the next 30 days informing you of the steps to get you a HHS PKI certificate. If you do not currently have a certificate to send secure e-mail, please contact John Franco, CC ISSO at jfranco@nih.gov and instructions will be sent to you.

Remote Access Account Migration

All current NIH parachute or NIH VPN accounts are being migrated to the NIH Active Directory (AD). The CC is scheduled to migrate all NIH parachute and NIH VPN accounts before August 15, 2006. This will allow users to utilize their NIH domain account password, rather that having to remember different passwords for their NIH log-in and their NIH parachute or NIH VPN account.

The migration process is simple and only requires a few steps. The first step is to ensure that you have completed the NIH Securing Remote Computers Training, accessible at http://irtsectraining.nih.gov After completion, you will need to sign the NIH Remote Access Agreement before your account can be migrated. If you do not sign this agreement, you will not be authorized to use any of the NIH remote access accounts.

If you have already taken the training and are ready to have your account migrated, please contact John Franco, CC ISSO at jfranco@nih.gov to make arrangements to have your account migrated.

New Perioperatve Information System (POIS)

The long awaited Peri-Operative Information System (POIS) went live on June 5th in the Department of Anesthesia and Surgical Services (DASS)! The new system is part of the overarching CRIS program and provides multiple functional and process benefits for its users.

The POIS interfaces with CRIS to receive names, basic demographic data, and protocol numbers of newly registered patients. Authorized users, such as physicians and their support staff, researchers, and clinical fellows may submit O. R. Case requests for DASS resources and view the O. R. Schedule from a secure website called SISWeb. These features replace the CRIS O. R. and Anesthesia Service Requests and the O. R. Schedule previously accessed from MIS. The DASS scheduler schedules surgery and other off-site anesthesia services in POIS. Once scheduled, DASS staff can print out documents that list the materials and other information needed to perform the O.R. cases, report against the operative procedure, and manage their equipment and supplies internally. DASS leadership benefits by receiving automated reporting generated from the data collected in POIS.

The first week of live operations went exceptionally well. There were relatively few problems and POIS is being well received by DASS users and surgical clinicians across the campus. Most requestors have picked up their access codes. If you need to obtain yours, please contact Nova Little at 301-451-9404.
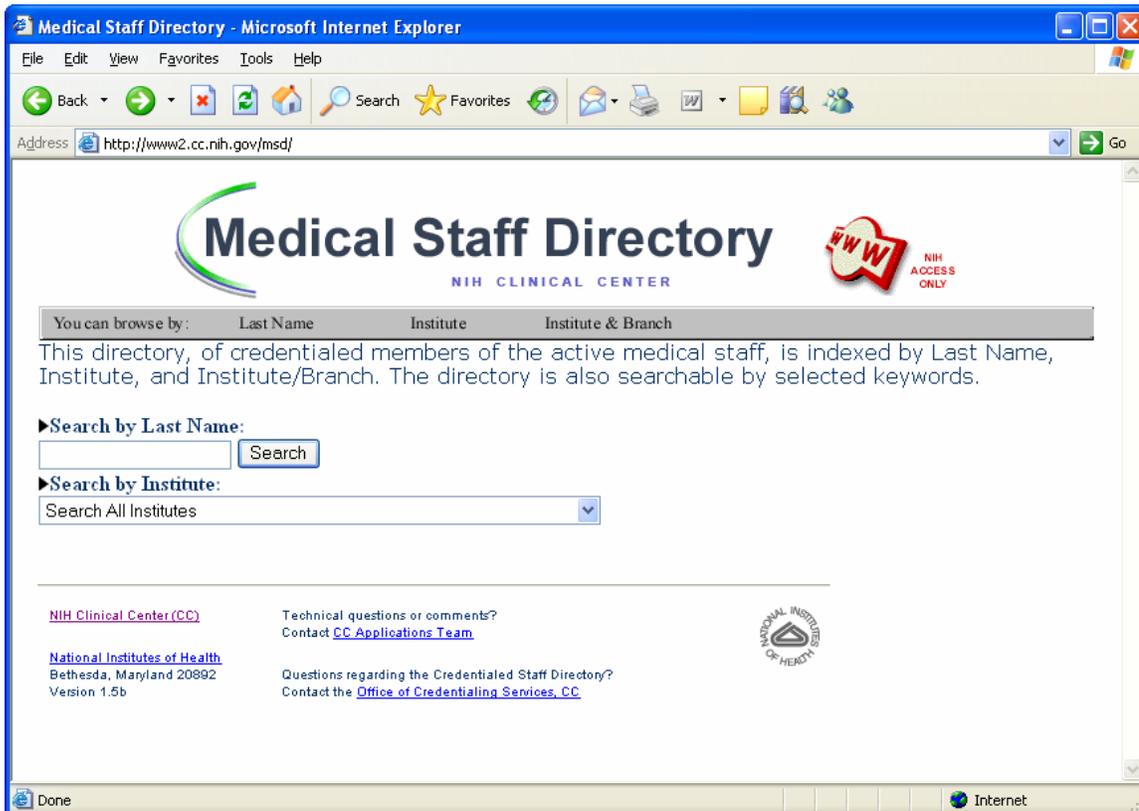
Medical Staff Contact Information in CRIS

Is Your Phone/Pager Number Correct In CRIS???

It is important for medical staff to have correct contact information in CRIS and now there is a new and easy way to make that happen! DCRI staff have updated the **Medical Staff Directory** application so that each member of the credentialed medical staff can update their information online.

If you wish to update your contact information, please complete the following steps:

1. Open the web address http://www2.cc.nih.gov/msd/ in your browser.
2. Enter your last name in the search box.
3. Review the contact information currently available in CRIS. If you would like to make a change, click the "Change" link.
4. Enter your name and email and then modify the contact information as necessary.
5. Click "Submit Query".
6. Close the directory.

CRIS User Training

Registrations for all CRIS classes are available on-line through the CIT Training website: http://training.cit.nih.gov/. For questions registration, please contact the CIT Help Desk at 301-594-6248 or the CRIS Support Center at 301-496-8400.

Please complete all paperwork and authorization for new physicians through the Office of Credentialing Services (301 496-5937) in advance to make sure a CRIS access code will be provided at the end of training. Access forms are available on the CRIS website at: http://cris.cc.nih.gov/.