

To: All Interior Health Surgeons and Medical Office Staff

Sept 1, 2015

Dear Surgeon,

Subject: Patient Prioritization Codes – Implementation of Updated Codes

In early 2014, a provincial review of the existing adult patient prioritization codes was initiated to ensure that the existing descriptions of diagnosis/clinical condition used are correct, comprehensive and have an appropriate wait time target (*please refer to attached Patient Prioritization Codes Overview for further details about the review.*)

This review has now concluded and the updated patient prioritization codes/wait time targets and implementation plan have been approved by the Provincial Surgical Executive Committee (PSEC). The planned go-live date for the updated patient prioritization codes is September 1st 2015.

In order to ensure the updated codes are implemented successfully, we want you to be aware of the following timelines and required actions:

September 1st (Go-Live, Grace Period Begins)

- September will be a grace period during which Health Authorities will assist your office to transition to the updated codes. You may be notified if your surgery booking form does not use an updated code during this period.
- Note that existing cases already booked for surgery with old codes will not have their prioritization code updated. Old codes will be allowed to exist in the system for as long as these cases are active.
- **Action Required:** Starting September 1st 2015, your office is asked to delete or shred your old code list and use the updated patient prioritization codes when completing the Health Authority surgery booking form.

September 28th (End of Grace Period):

- Health Authority booking offices will only accept the updated patient prioritization codes on their surgery booking form. Use of old codes after this date will be treated as an incomplete booking package and returned to your office for correction.

Interior Health is committed to providing ongoing support for any code related questions. Please feel to contact Ben Rhebergen or Brent Parker with any questions.

- Ben Rhebergen (benjamin.rhebergen@interiorhealth.ca) or
- Brent Parker (brent.parker2@interiorhealth.ca) or your local OR Booking office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Janine Johns

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