

Enhancing Patient Care with Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) at Island Health

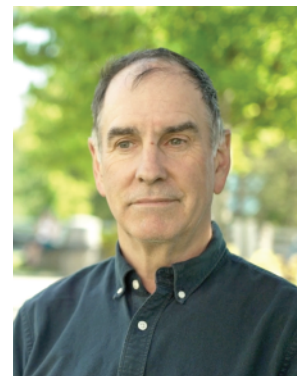
Computerized provider order entry (CPOE) allows health care providers to enter and send treatment instructions – including medication, laboratory and radiology orders – via a computer application rather than by paper, fax, or telephone. It forms an essential part of Island Health’s commitment to advancing patient care through innovation, since this transformative technology streamlines the order entry process and minimizes errors, ultimately ensuring safe and more effective patient care.

Insights from Dr. Kevin McMeel

Dr. Kevin McMeel, a specialist in emergency medicine, has been using CPOE at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) since 2016. Here is his experience with electronic ordering.

"When I order something on the computer, I can be in front of the patient and before my interaction is done, there's someone knocking on the door saying, 'I'm here to draw the blood work you requested,' or 'I'm here to take the patient for an x-ray.' That's the immediate benefit."

"The longer-term benefit is there's actually a record that I know what the patient's been given. I just have to look, and I can do it right in front of the patient. Right then I can see what they had on their last visit. I don't have to send a clerk to go run to another part of the hospital to get me a stack of papers so I can see what's going on. In the long run, it improves my job."



Dr. Kevin McMeel, Emergency doctor at NRGH.

How will CPOE change your practice?

CPOE offers a number of advantages to medical staff, from reducing errors in medication administration to improving efficiency. Here are a few examples of how CPOE can directly benefit your practice:

From this	To this
Give handwritten or verbal orders and hope they are legible or correctly transcribed	Enter your orders directly into the patient chart from your computer, even using remote
Wait for someone to find your directions	Orders are immediately visible to the care team
Look for required order sets on an ad-hoc basis	Access and "favourite" pre-approved order sets for greater efficiency
Hunting for an accurate record of medications dispersed	Electronic, in-the-moment, up to date records in the eMAR

Implementing CPOE at Island Health

Our CPOE rollout prioritizes comprehensive training, ongoing support, and continuous system enhancement to tailor it to our specific needs. Embracing CPOE means adopting a powerful clinical tool and laying the foundation for future health information system advancements. Join us in advancing healthcare through technology for better, faster, and safer patient care. Visit [Island Health \(IHealth\) CPOE](#) for more information.