

## **Minutes from National iMedConsent™ VANTS Call**

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

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### **1. Upcoming Release**

In the last update, Dialog Medical accidentally removed the “Heart – Exercise Tolerance Test” consent form from the Cardiology specialty. Instructions on how to add that consent back to the list will be sent to the listserv (communication sent later that afternoon). The chemotherapy consent form will be updated—this should be very helpful to the field. It will enable consent forms to be built that will contain drug-specific risks. In addition, an enhancement will be added that will enable clinicians who use the patient education documents in iMedConsent to document compliance with The Joint Commission requirements.

### **2. eHealth University - July 15-17, 2008 (Tampa, FL)**

Two iMedConsent hands-on classes will be offered at eHealth University this year. The classes are currently scheduled for Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. Reminder: these are end-user classes, and will not cover administrative functionalities such as form creation and report generation.  
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### **3. Policy and Form Update**

No updates available on the timeline for release of the following forms, publications, and enhancements:

- Informed Consent Handbook revisions (including blank consent form templates and changes to the consent form expiration, witness requirement, and “who can sign”)
- Opioid Agreement (aka Pain Agreement)
- Oxygen Safety documents
- CCOW enhancement (eliminate iMed sign-on)
- Signature for receipt of drugs in pharmacy

### **4. iMedConsent Handbook**

This Handbook is nearing entrance into the concurrence process.

### **5. OI&T Versus Medical Funds**

As I currently understand the rulings on this issue, signature pads for use with iMedConsent are non-IT. Medical funds may be used to purchase signature pads. Laptops have been conventionally considered IT equipment, even if used exclusively for patient care. However, some facilities have apparently gained approval to use medical funds to purchase these laptops. I have been unable to find justification or approval for the use of medical funds to purchase laptops.

### **6. Wireless Deployment**

Paul Tompkins in Tampa discussed his facility’s successful wireless rollout of

iMedConsent. They enhanced their wireless backbone (searched for “dead” spots, etc.) and are using mostly GTSI Flow Carts. Tablets were not deployed because of the fear of theft—attendings did not want to give them to their residents. They are currently exploring the possibility of purchasing some Johnson carts. These carts are much less expensive than the GTSI carts, and are more user-friendly for maintenance, and had a longer battery life. Paul reports that funding for these carts is, in fact, biomed (not OI&T) because the carts are used solely for direct medical care.

#### **7. C-5 Motion Tablet PC**

Dallas and San Antonio are currently spearheading an evaluation of these tablets mounted on carts. To-date, the evaluation seems to indicate that the configuration is being very well-received. Dr. Bill Beer in San Antonio has agreed to report back to this group periodically to update us on their progress in the pilot.

#### **8. Requiring Providers to Sign Notes**

The group briefly discussed a proposal by Portland to change the DAP for consent forms to require signatures on the progress notes that are auto-generated by the program (conventionally, they have been administratively closed, and do not require signatures). The consensus on the call was that this was not advisable, and is apparently not currently being done at any facility in the system.

#### **9. Consent for Series of Treatments**

The group briefly discussed the possibility that consent forms may be valid for a course or series of treatments. The consent form should be edited to reflect that the treatments will take place over “X” period of time and/or will be repeated “X” times. Please refer to Section 4b of Handbook 1004.1<sup>1</sup> for guidance. If you have specific questions, refer them to your local ethics resources (IntegratedEthics<sup>2</sup> Ethics Consultation Committee or Preventive Ethics Committee).

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<sup>1</sup> Handbook 1004.1 can be found at: [http://vaww1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=404](http://vaww1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=404)

<sup>2</sup> More information about IntegratedEthics can be found at: <http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/integratedethics/index.asp>