

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHLS) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Delay in Treatment

Summary:

A patient presented with chest pain early in the morning at an emergency department. Initial tests were inconclusive and a repeat Troponin was ordered. The repeat Troponin was not completed but the patient was admitted to the ward for further observation. The patient's condition deteriorated and he/she was transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU). A Troponin result was drawn at 22:00h which was significantly elevated at 3021 (normal range is 0-14) and the EKG report indicated a STEMI (heart attack). The patient was stabilized and transferred to a tertiary care centre where he/she received treatment and improved. The patient was discharged home after approximately 9 weeks in hospital and rehabilitation.

Keywords:

Delay in treatment

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Care Management

Findings of the Review:

The discharge of the patient from the emergency department without key laboratory reports being received, such as the Troponin level, increased the likelihood that the patient would experience a delay in treatment and subsequent heart attack.

System Learning:

Educate staff on the Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)/Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) for the review of pending lab tests/results prior to safe patient discharge from the emergency department.

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