Clinical Inquiry Support Unit

Who we are
The Clinical Inquiry Support Unit (CISU) is a new group hosted by AHS in collaboration with the FoMD. Our team consists of a team lead, three application coordinators, two researchers and one administrator.

What we do
The CISU supports clinicians to design, implement and evaluate clinical decision support tools for research and quality improvement. For example, best practice advisories (BPAs) can support the prospective enrollment of patients into clinical research studies within eCLINICIAN.

Where have we come from; Where are we going?
- Start-up: Fall, 2016
  - Develop team
  - Understand needs
  - Communicate to FoMD

- Process-building: Winter, 2017
  - Develop intake process
  - Plan future state
  - 16 projects in progress

- Scale-up: Summer, 2017
  - Streamline intake
  - Expand beyond BPA development

Expectations
The CISU is still in its infancy, with limited capacity and an evolving process. There is currently a backlog of requests, so we appreciate your patience as we mature.

Get started
To develop your request to support the prospective enrollment of patients for research within eCLINICIAN, contact Dr. Jillian Byrne (jill.byrne@ualberta.ca).
The Clinical Inquiry Support Unit (CISU)

Prepared by: Dr. Jillian Byrne (Director, Clinical Research) &
Dr. Lawrence Richer (Associate Dean, Clinical/Translational Research)
April, 2017

Background
The “Clinical Inquiry Support Unit” (CISU) is a new endeavor to support research (clinical and health services) as well as quality improvement with Clinical Information Systems (CISs), such as eCLINICIAN. The CISU is hosted by Alberta Health Services (AHS) in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD) at the University of Alberta.

Why CISU?
Clinical data is accruing from a growing CIS footprint in the Edmonton Zone, and this data can be leveraged by faculty members in the FoMD. CISU will combine AHS strengths in digital health and data management with FoMD expertise in clinical research and knowledge translation. We anticipate supporting researchers and clinicians affiliated with the University of Alberta while capitalizing on the capabilities of CISs.

What can CISU do for me?
The CISU can help faculty members to develop patient- or research-driven clinical inquiry supports within eCLINICIAN. The CISU can help to develop clinical decision supports, such as best practice advisories (BPAs), which can support the recruitment of patients into clinical research studies within eCLINICIAN. An example of a BPA is shown on page 2.

Please note!
The CISU is still in its infancy, with limited capacity and an evolving process. Currently, there is a backlog of requests that we are working our way through and we appreciate your patience as we mature and grow as a unit. However, it is important that we get your requests documented and triaged as soon as possible.

How to get started?
If you have questions or would like know more about the CISU, please contact Jill Byrne.

To develop your request to support enrollment of patients for research within eCLINICIAN, follow these instructions:
1. Login to your NACTRC account.
2. Click on ‘Add Protocol’ within the ‘Protocol Bank.’
3. Select ‘Yes’ to state that you require eCLINICIAN access for this protocol.
4. Select ‘Yes’ to state you are interested in using eCLINICIAN for patient enrollment.
Example of a Best Practice Advisory (BPA) within eCLINICIAN

Research Study: Patient might qualify for a study on Crohn's Disease. The patient must have active Crohn’s Disease and be Refractory/Intolerant or Dependent to corticosteroids and/or immunomodulators within the last 6 years. This study examines a new Alpha-4 Beta-7 Antagonist. Please select one of the options below to indicate whether the patient wants to be contacted with more information about the study:

- The patient may fit the above criteria and is interested in the study; please mark the patient as interested to have the coordinator contact them to determine eligibility
- The patient is not currently ready for the study but can be re-considered at the next visit; please select “Reconsider at the Next Visit”
- The patient is not interested in the study, irrespective of eligibility; please select “Patient Refused - Never Display Again”

Please document additional enrollment details in the FYI Flag.