

Unintentional Discontinuation of Medication Orders August 7, 2023

Issue:

A recent patient safety incident involving an anticoagulant medication has highlighted the risk of **unintentional discontinuation of medications** during the renewal process in the clinical information system (CIS).

Recommendations:

- All CIS users who order, verify, review, or action medication orders must be familiar with the **medication order details fields**, including the differences in the **Stop Type options** (see below).
- If a medication is due for renewal and the decision is to continue the medication, the user should right click on the medication order and select **Renew**.
- The duration of the renewed order will automatically default to the previous duration and Stop Type on the medication order. For example, enoxaparin will default to 7 days, Soft Stop (unless the duration had been changed from the default on the preceding order).
- **Please Note**, if the Duration field is touched in any way, the Stop Type will automatically change to a Physician Stop. This means, the order will no longer come up for renewal, and will be discontinued upon the stop date without any prompts.
 - **DO NOT touch the duration field unless you intentionally want to change the duration/stop type.**
 - **The Stop Type field must be reviewed, along with all other order details before signing any order.**

(Lovenox)



Remaining Administrations: 7 Stop:

*Dose: 40 mg	*Route of administration: Subcutaneous
Drug Form: Injection	*Frequency: q24h timed
PRN:	Duration:
Priority:	May use own medication: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
administer: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Special Instructions:
required ***: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Stop Date/Time: 2023-Jul-06 0859
Date/Time: 2023-Jun-29 09:00	
Stop type: Soft Stop	

Do Not Touch

See description on Page 2

Stop Type Descriptions:

Hard stop	This setting stops an order at a defined time. Hard-stop orders discontinue automatically when they reach the set stop date and time. The system displays the  icon next to orders with hard stop set.
Physician stop	The system treats a physician stop like a hard stop. If a default duration is changed during order entry, the stop type is set to physician.
Soft stop	This setting does not stop at a set time, and requires provider interaction. The system displays the  icon next to orders with a set soft stop. If stop type is set to soft stop by default, the order does not discontinue at the stop time, but is flagged to indicate renewal.

For more information on this Safer Practice Notice, please contact:

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Safer Practice Notices are issued by the Health PEI Quality and Patient Safety Division to communicate recommended changes as a result of events that have been reported and investigated through the Provincial Safety Management System (PSMS).

Safer Practice Notices can be found at: <https://src.healthpei.ca/safer-practice-notice>