

Increasing Evidence-Informed Decision Making at Northern Health: Making Evidence Accessible in Your Practice

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northern health
the northern way of caring

Who are we?

What is a DST?

Why do we want DSTs?



Northern Health's Strategic Plan 2009-2015

Northern Health will ensure quality in all aspects of the organization.

We will:



- Establish a culture of continuous quality improvement and patient safety.
- Establish the organizational structures and processes required for effective decision making.
- Strengthen our capacity to manage the change needed to improve quality.
- Identify and manage risks to the organization and strengthen our preparedness for emergencies.

How can we do that?

- Busy staff
- Where are we learning our practice?
- Rural, remote practice
- Developed processes to create and share best practice on iPortal
- Access to best practice anywhere at anytime

How many of us access DSTs as a resource?

- Do staff and students know they are there?
- Are they communicated?
- Are they accessible?
- When we access them, do they help us make informed decisions?

Northern Health DST Office

Overall Objective:

To continue to build a culture of evidence-informed practice by ensuring Northern Health staff have access to current, meaningful policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines.

“Designed by Northern Health staff for Northern Health staff”

Goals:

- (1) Improve the use of DSTs
- (2) Educate and coach Northern Health staff to identify, prioritize, plan, implement and evaluate the development, review and uptake of DSTs;
- (3) Ensure Northern Health has timely access to meaningful DSTs
- (4) Promote regional, consistent DST and form development
- (5) Build sustainable relationships

How are we doing this?

Collaborate!

- Clinical Educators
- Information Technology Services
- Library Services
- Pharmacy
- Professional Practice
- Planning & Performance
- Research & Evaluation

Goal 1: Increase use of DSTs and identify them as a resource

- Get out there and explain how DSTs can be a resource
- Work with Clinical Educators
- Ask our staff how to best communicate
- Ask our staff about how we can make DSTs more meaningful and accessible.

Goal 2: Educate and coach staff to develop, review and implement DSTs

- One-on-one support
- Toolkit
- Workshops
- Lean process:
 - Series of interviews with authors
 - 4 day Kaizen event
 - Pilot projects

Goal 3: Ensure Northern Health has timely access to meaningful DSTs

- Partnered with IT to create a new website
- Facilitated focus groups as part of the iPortal reconstruction
- Contractor has worked with us in our Lean
- Users can instantly provide feedback



Goal 4: Support regionalization

- Work with staff to develop collaborative teams to develop regional documents
- Ensures evidence based, consistent practice across the whole health authority
- Less confusion, more time-efficient
- Work as a health authority, sharing resources and avoiding duplication

Goal 5: Build relationships

- Working with internal departments to:
 - Develop meaningful DSTs
 - Support collaboration to avoid duplication
 - Discuss sustainability: review plans
 - To work as a health authority and support one another
- Environmental scan
 - We don't want to re-invent the wheel
 - Share resources, communicate

The answers come from you...

We will strive to:

- meet you where you are at
- support collaboration across the region to build meaningful DSTs
- continue to explore how to get evidence to you when you need it, where you need it.

What have your experiences been with DSTs?



How can we support decision making with evidence in your practice?

