

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES *Clinical and Preventive Services*

TO: Mayor and Members Board of Health	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: June 27, 2011	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: PECS Software for Universal Flu Delivery (BOH11023) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department	PREPARED BY: Rosemarie McKee (905) 546-2424 ext. 7115
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to sign the Licence, Training and Service Agreement for use of the Protocol for Electronic Clinic Systems (PECS) Software for Influenza Delivery between the City of Hamilton and the Region of Niagara, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PECS is a software application developed by the Niagara Region to manage electronic client immunization records. PECS offers real time, streamlined, standardized patient tracking; eliminating our past practice of paper tracking.

Last year, the City of Hamilton as represented by Public Health Services (PHS) entered a Licence, Training and Service Agreement for the use of PECS, and used the application along with 17 Public Health Units across Ontario during the seasonal influenza campaign. The cost was covered by the 2010 PHS budget.

PECS supports a cost effective quality health care delivery model. PECS has the ability to scan health cards. This supports the privacy of collecting personal information. Using encrypted software and a portable secure network drive at clinic sites protects personal

and personal health information. It also has integrated bar code technology that allows health units to automate the input of vaccine product; includes lot number, expiration date, and automated inventory validation.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for Recommendation(s) only)

Financial: The cost of purchasing the PECS software will be covered within the 2011 approved budget.

This table shows the cost differential for 20 seasonal influenza clinics:

Detail	With PECS	Without PECS
Software	\$15,000	N/A
External nursing staff	\$31,500 (10 RNs)	\$47,250 (15 RNs)
Registration (including training)	\$2,700	N/A
Assistance for equipment transport	\$400	N/A
PHN time to review, scan, correct forms and run reports	N/A	\$2,429.40
Printing (consents)	N/A	\$465
Total	\$49,600	\$50,141.40

Staffing: It is estimated that Information Services (IS) support will be required for a total of 7 days from mid October to the end of November; included in their work plan.

Legal: The Licence, Training and Service Agreement will be developed to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

PECS was initially used in Hamilton during the pandemic (H1N1) season of 2009/10. During the 2010 seasonal influenza campaign, it was used by Hamilton and 17 other health units.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no corporate policies that will be affected by approving this recommendation as applicable policies are already in place.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Mike Goldsmith of Information Services (IS) was consulted regarding the amount of IS time required to implement and support the Protocol for Electronic Clinic Systems (PECS) software application. He estimated that their support will be required for a total of 7 days from mid October to the end of November; in their work plan.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

The use of PECS software is provided on a fee for service basis. Along with the software, Niagara also provides software upgrades, training, and technical support to participating health units. City of Hamilton IS supported the use of PECS last year, and will provide assistance again this year.

The PECS software system:

- Greatly reduces data entry error
- Provides correct billing information to be sent to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC)
- Reduces Public Health Nurse (PHN) time spent reviewing, correcting and scanning forms, and running reports
- Reduces vaccine wastage as it tracks usage for Public Health Services (PHS) staff

As a result of using PECS, PHS is able to reduce client wait time at clinics.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

The Board of Health could decide that PHS run the seasonal flu clinics without the support of PECS software. This option is not recommended because of the following:

- It would increase PHN time spent correcting errors on scanable forms
- Errors could lead to PHS missing fees billable to the MOHLTC
- It would increase PHN time spent scanning forms

- It will be a less efficient monitoring method for vaccine usage
- It would increase client wait times at clinics
- It would reduce the volume of clients that PHS could vaccinate during one clinic
- It would increase the number of agency staff that PHS would need to hire
- It could increase the amount of money spent to run the seasonal flu clinics

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)
--

Focus Areas: 1. Skilled, Innovative and Respectful Organization, 2. Financial Sustainability, 3. Intergovernmental Relationships, 4. Growing Our Economy, 5. Social Development, 6. Environmental Stewardship, 7. Healthy Community

Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization

- ◆ More innovation, greater teamwork, better client focus

Financial Sustainability

- ◆ Delivery of municipal services and management capital assets/liabilities in a sustainable, innovative and cost effective manner

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Not Applicable.