

Issue 3 Newsletter August 1997

Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada

Canadian Hemophilia Assessment and Resource Management System Newsletter

CHRISTENING OF THE CANADIAN HEMOPHILIA MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

By now, most of you will be aware of the fact that the new Canadian Hemophilia MIS has been re-christened as CHARMS (Canadian Hemophilia Assessment and Resource Management System). This delightful name was submitted by Jerry Teitel and was judged the winner of our MIS naming competition by a group of distinguished judges meeting immediately before the AHCDC annual meeting in Mississauga. For his imaginative use of language, the charming Dr. Teitel was awarded a prize of some vintage wine to help him while away the humid summer nights of Toronto.

A LOGO FOR CHARMS

Now that we have a new name for the MIS it has been suggested that we develop an appropriate accompanying logo for the program. Those of you present at the Mississauga AGM may remember that the first version of CHARMS was packaged as a compact disk in a CD box with a cover depicting a bag of red cells. The McMaster developers have suggested that we now replace this image with a new logo appropriate for the CHARMS program. We would therefore like to invite submissions of potential CHARMS logos to be sent to the AHCDC office by the end of October.

PILOT TESTING OF CHARMS

Testing of the first version of the CHARMS software has now been underway in the four pilot testing sites (Vancouver, Saskatoon, Hamilton, and the Montreal Children's Hospital) for the past several weeks. However, although all centres are providing feedback for minor revisions, the overall impression of this initial version of the software is that it is attractive and easy to use.

As expected, during these initial phases of testing we are encountering some glitches such as the "corruption" of the CHARMS program by the pre-loading of the MS Office Suite of programs on the new clinic computer at one of the centres. This reminds us that it will be important that our members have the opportunity to use their hardware for programs other than CHARMS.

The current phase of the software undergoing evaluation is the demographic module and accompanying reports. Phase 2, the clinical module and reports, will soon be released to the pilot testing sites, to be followed by Phase 3 (products inventory, and bleed diary) and finally, Phase 4 (central database and data communication).

The core group of the CHARMS Implementation Steering Committee met by telephone conference on July the 28th to discuss progress with the implementation schedule. Perhaps not surprisingly, given the arrival of the software at the beginning of the summer we are going to find it very difficult to complete the pilot testing phase of this process by the middle of August, the original goal. Nevertheless, every

attempt will be made to keep as close as possible to original scheduled deadlines so that subsequent acceptance testing and final installation at all clinics will be possible by early 1998.

As anticipated, the key to progressing with this process appears to be the designation of appropriate personnel who can commit a dedicated time to inputting and manipulating patient data in the CHARMS program. We would emphasize again that a budget has been made available by the CBA for this purpose and that all clinics involved with the CHARMS implementation process should contact Andrea Vogel at the AHCDC Executive Office to arrange for personnel payments at their centre. If there are any questions concerning this issue we would encourage you to contact either the AHCDC Executive Office or one of the core steering group members by whatever means you find most appropriate.