

*Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.*

## **Patient Safety Learning Advisory**

### **Lack of Documentation**

#### **Summary:**

A patient presented to the Emergency Department via EMS with active seizures. Patient was treated and discharged with a prescription for an increased dose of Dilantin for 3 months. There was no documentation for the reason for the dose increase. There was no documentation of a follow-up plan being communicated to the patient.

On further investigation, it was found that the patient had received a second prescription from an outside healthcare provider for the same medication. The patient had been taking both prescriptions. When the regular primary care provider saw the patient, all medications were discontinued due to toxic levels. The patient presented to another Emergency Department two and one half months later with active seizures.

The patient was discharged from the facility once the medication regime was stabilized.

#### **Keywords:**

Documentation, Dilantin

#### **Findings of the Review:**

There was a lack of documentation including an incomplete discharge checklist, no documentation as to the reason for the dose increase or to support communication of discharge follow up plan to the patient or family provider.

**System Learning:**

Ensure all patients have a completed safe discharge check list on discharge from the facility.

Develop tools to educate staff regarding required documentation standards and potential liability issues when documentation is incomplete.

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