

## Chapter 25

# Saskatoon Regional Health Authority—Maintaining Medical Equipment Follow Up

### 1.0 MAIN POINTS

Saskatoon Regional Health Authority (Saskatoon RHA) has not yet implemented the recommendation we made in 2011 relating to maintenance of its medical equipment. In our *2011 Report – Volume 1*, we reported that Saskatoon RHA needed to establish written policies and procedures for maintaining its medical equipment. It still has not done this.

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Saskatoon RHA is responsible for the overall quality of care for its patients. To provide a high level of patient care, Saskatoon RHA uses medical equipment to help diagnose and treat patients.

Poorly-maintained equipment could malfunction resulting in incorrect diagnosis or treatment. Furthermore, equipment failure could result in unsafe care that may harm patients.

In 2011, we assessed Saskatoon RHA's processes to maintain its medical equipment and reported our findings and conclusion in our *2011 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 18. We concluded that, for the twelve-months ended February 28, 2011, Saskatoon RHA had adequate processes to maintain its medical equipment in three Saskatoon hospitals and the Humboldt District Hospital except in one area. Saskatoon RHA needed to establish written policies and procedures for maintaining its medical equipment. We made one recommendation.

This chapter describes our follow-up of management's actions on this recommendation.

To conduct this review, we followed the *Standards for Assurance Engagements* published in the *CICA Handbook – Assurance*. To evaluate Saskatoon RHA's progress towards meeting our recommendation, we used the relevant criterion from the original audit. Saskatoon RHA's management agreed with the criterion in the original audit.

### 3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATION

This section sets out our past recommendation and Saskatoon RHA's actions up to March 31, 2013. We found that Saskatoon RHA still has work to do.



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### **3.1 Policies and Procedures for Medical Equipment Maintenance not Established**

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We recommended that Saskatoon Regional Health Authority establish written policies and procedures for maintaining medical equipment at all of its healthcare facilities. (2011 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement October 12, 2012)

**Status** – Not Implemented

Saskatoon RHA has not yet established written policies and procedures for maintaining its medical equipment at all of its healthcare facilities. Management indicated that it planned to have a policy drafted and approved by the Board by the end of March, 2013. As of April 19, 2013, a policy has been drafted but has not yet been provided to the Board for approval.