

Chapter 26

Saskatchewan Health Authority—Maintaining Medical Equipment in Healthcare Facilities in Melfort and Surrounding Area

1.0 MAIN POINTS

By November 2019, the Saskatchewan Health Authority improved its processes to maintain medical equipment consistent with required manufacturer standards. This equipment is located within healthcare facilities in Melfort and surrounding area. Maintained medical equipment includes intravenous pumps, ventilators, and cardiac monitors.

Maintaining medical equipment consistent with manufacturers' requirements decreases the risk of equipment working improperly or not safely when needed.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Medical equipment is essential to diagnose and treat patients. Medical equipment requires preventative maintenance commonly set by manufacturers.

Under *The Provincial Health Authority Act*, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is responsible for its patients' overall quality of care. This includes supplying properly functioning medical equipment to provide safe, patient-centred care.

2.2 Focus of Follow-Up Audit

This chapter describes our fourth follow-up of management's actions on a recommendation we first made in 2010 about processes to maintain medical equipment within healthcare facilities in Melfort and surrounding area.¹

At December 31, 2017, the time of our last follow-up, the Authority had not fully implemented the recommendation—it had not maintained all equipment in accordance with the required standards.²

To conduct this audit engagement, we followed the standards for assurance engagements published in the *CPA Canada Handbook—Assurance* (CSAE 3001). To evaluate the Authority's progress toward meeting our recommendations, we used the relevant criteria from the original audit. The Authority's management agreed with the criteria in the original audit.

¹ Our *2010 Report – Volume 2*, Chapter 11C, concluded that for the year ended March 31, 2010, the former Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority did not have adequate processes to maintain its medical equipment. We made seven recommendations. Find the original report regarding these recommendations at auditor.sk.ca/publications/public-reports. We reported the original audit work in *2010 Report – Volume 2*, Chapter 11C, pp. 179–186.

² *2018 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 28, pp. 287–289. auditor.sk.ca/publications/public-reports.



To complete the audit, we discussed progress management made in meeting our recommendation and examined key policies. We also tested a sample of medical equipment to determine whether the Authority performed maintenance in a timely way and in accordance with required standards.

3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATION

This section sets out the recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed to it, the status of the recommendation at November 30, 2019, and the Authority's actions up to that date.

3.1 Medical Equipment Maintained According to Manufacturer Requirements

We recommended Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority maintain all equipment in accordance with the required standards. (2010 Report – Volume 2, p. 183, Recommendation 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement January 19, 2011)

Status—Implemented

The Authority maintained medical equipment within healthcare facilities located in Melfort and surrounding area in accordance with manufacturers' requirements (standards). Maintenance schedules set out in its IT maintenance system aligned with manufacturers' maintenance requirements.

At November 2019, staff within healthcare facilities in Melfort and surrounding area continue to use the former Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority's Risk-Based Equipment Management Program Policy to maintain medical equipment located within these facilities.³ The policy requires maintenance to occur according to manufacturers' requirements. It expects staff to document maintenance frequency, parts required, and tasks to complete for each item requiring maintenance. Staff use the former Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority's maintenance IT system to document this information.

For 30 pieces of medical equipment tested, we found staff completed maintenance within a reasonable period and in accordance with manufacturers' requirements.

Properly maintaining medical equipment in accordance with manufacturers' requirements decreases the risk of equipment working improperly or not safely when needed.

³ The Authority is in the process of developing a provincial set of policies for a risk-based preventative maintenance program.