**Issue/Process: Virtual Beds**

**Status:** Draft  
**Reviewing Group:** Stakeholders  
**Action Requested:** Approve framing of the issues and recommendation

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### Issue/Background: Virtual Beds

Once Computerized Physician Order Entry is implemented in the fall of 2010, physicians will enter all of their orders electronically from any location within the Virtua system or remotely. Some orders require that the system “know” where the patient is located (i.e., label printing for nurse-obtained lab specimens). Orders issued when the patient is off their unit (OR, PACU, Endo etc.) result in routing to the home unit, not the current patient location creating substantial workflow issues.

Others have addressed this problem by creating “virtual” beds on the procedural units. Patients are temporarily transferred to these beds when they go for a procedure. This solves most of the challenges but one remaining issue is how to avoid assigning another patient to the patient’s “real” bed on the home nursing unit. This can be addressed manually, which is what most others have done. We will investigate a bed status indicator in CIS as an alternative.

### Recommendations

- Adopt a virtual bed approach to orders for patients not currently in their assigned bed
  - Analyze all areas where patients may be temporarily located for need for Virtual Nurse Station and creation of virtual beds Soarian
  - Analyze current ED “Hold” virtual beds for design and number and coordinate with this evolving process
  - Build needed locations and beds in Soarian and ancillary systems as appropriate
- Determine approach to holding the patient’s “home” bed
  - Review bed status indicators in Invision
  - Add a new status: “procedural hold” for patients going to another department but returning
- Process and policy redesign
  - Review bed flow process with nursing and registration
  - Develop new policy, guidelines and workflow for moving patients from one location to another
  - Develop implementation plan in conjunction with CPOE

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### Source of Recommendations

- CPOE Project Team

### Response/Comments:

(Please reply “Approve”/“Reject”/“Schedule Conference Call” /“Red Flag” using voting buttons)