



Monday Morning Practice Pearls # 55

What exactly is a CRIS order?



Clinical Research Information System
National Institutes of Health

A CRIS order is a medical order (diagnostic, therapeutic, protocol-related) entered into the Electronic Health Record system used at the NIH.

- Per [MAS Policy M04-1](#), only authorized prescribers (physicians, dentists, podiatrists, certified registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants) may write medical orders.

CRIS (**Clinical Research Information System**) is a central location for all patient-related clinical information used to document patient care, retrieve data and analyze trends.

- Orders can be entered as current, future, T, or suspended- Refer to **M2P2 # 56**
- CRIS supports functionality for entering orders through order sets- Refer to **M2P2 #57**

What happens to CRIS orders if my patient is admitted or discharged?

- CRIS has an automated order discontinuation function to help with the management of orders.
- A patient's current visit changes if the patient is admitted and becomes an inpatient or if the patient is discharged and becomes an outpatient.
- When a patient's current visit changes, some orders are discontinued immediately (e.g., medications or diet orders) and others are discontinued after a delay, to allow reporting to be sent back to CRIS from another system (e.g., Cell Processing, EKG/ECHO, Lab and Transfusion medicine, Consults, Pathology).
- The following orders are NOT discontinued upon visit change:
 - Orders entered in Future Outpatient/Pre-Admit that have a status of Hold
 - Medication orders written as Take Home Medications that have an Active status
 - Isolation orders

Resources

- Department of Clinical Research Informatics (DCRI) website <https://www.cc.nih.gov/dcric/index.html>
- CRIS Homepage <https://cris.cc.nih.gov/index.html>
- Health Information Management Department (HIMD) <http://intranet.cc.nih.gov/medicalrecords/index.html>
- HIMD Handbook <http://intranet.cc.nih.gov/cc/mrh/mrhandbook.pdf>