

July 2007 (Monthly update for physicians)

Joint Commission Wrap-up

The Joint Commission was here June 11-15 and we have been accredited for another three years pending satisfactorily addressing several recommendations for improvement. The surveyors were very complementary about the helpfulness and overall interactions with medical staff. Surveyors were particularly pleased with progress in medication reconciliation and alleviation of unapproved abbreviations at the hospital, especially in comparison to other facilities. However, we need your help improving dating and timing of all orders, countersigning verbal orders, H&Ps and Op notes in forty-eight hours, and attention to legibility.

PAs and NPs Signing Orders

The medical executive committee approved a change in the rules and regulations such that PAs and NPs will be able to sign their own verbal orders and there is no longer a requirement to have orders written by PA's and NP's authenticated by an attending physician so long as these orders are within the defined scope of practice of the individual.

Nursing Update

As part of creating the "Remarkable Patient Experience" a significant increase in the budget for nurse staffing has been approved. Goals for the new budget include establishing nurse/patient ratios on med-surg units at a 1:5 ratio 24/7 and increasing RNs at the bedside in all nursing areas. Recruitment has also begun aggressively seeking experienced nurses.

Discharge Notifications

Beginning July 1, 2007, hospitals must deliver a revised version of the "Important Message from Medicare" to all Medicare beneficiaries who are hospital inpatients. What this means for physicians is every Medicare patient will be given a standardized notice 48 hours prior to discharge about the intent to discharge. This notice reminds patients of their rights to petition the QIO if they do not believe they are ready for discharge.

Behavioral Health Outpatient

Forsyth Behavioral Health Outpatient provides a wide array of treatment services for our patients with psychiatric and substance abuse problems. The practice provides an alternative to inpatient treatment, and is also a supportive treatment service for those patients who are transitioning from the hospital back into their living environment. To make a referral, call 277-1800 or for more information contact Todd Clark 277-1811 tclark@novanthealth.org.

Hand Hygiene Update (calculations from May)

There has been a steady decline over the last three months in hand hygiene at FMC. Physicians play a major role in our facility reaching the goal of 100% compliance. Please remember to sanitize before and after patient visits.

FMC 87% MPH 100% TMC 100%

Upcoming "Leaders in the Lounge" for July

- 7/11 Tim Shelton – Administrator Medical Park Hospital
- 7/18 Alethea McCullough – Director of Physician Recruitment
- 7/25 Sharon Murphy – Executive Director Forsyth Regional Cancer Center