

# medical staff briefs

A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

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## MEC action changes specialists' duties with inpatients

Inpatient specialty consults are frequently difficult to obtain once a patient has left the Emergency Room. Patient admits to the wrong specialist have also occurred. The Medical Executive Committee formed an ad hoc committee to review this patient safety problem. The MEC reviewed three recommendations of the ad hoc committee and have voted to change the Rules & Regulations effective immediately.

The following diagnoses that follow will be admitted directly to the on-call specialist from the ER:

### Surgery:

- Free air in the abdomen
- Small bowel obstruction
- Necrotizing faciititis

### Cardiology:

- Acute coronary syndrome as primary working diagnosis
- Arrhythmia as primary working diagnosis
- Initial diagnosis of CHF (recurrent CHF can be admitted to the hospitalists)
- Admission requiring device (pacemaker, defibrillator, etc.)
- Ischemia as a primary working diagnosis

### Urology

- Bladder outlet obstruction
- Hydronephrosis
- Kidney stone

### GYN

- Vaginal bleeding

### ENT

- Peritonsillar abscess
- Epistaxis as primary working diagnosis

### Gastroenterology

- Foreign bodies

Intensivist/Hospitalists will be available for consultation if requested on an MD-to-MD

basis, but hospitalists will not admit patients.

The physician on the ER call schedule is responsible for ER consults and in addition is now responsible for inpatient consultation for a 24-hour period. The exceptions are St. Joseph Hospital Affiliated Physicians (SJHAP) patients, who are covered by the SJHAP panel.

Physicians who fail to respond or refuse to respond to inpatient consultation requests may be subject to a tiered fine system: 1st occurrence \$1,000 fine, the 2nd \$2,000 and 3rd \$3,000. Each fine would have to be reviewed by the department chair before implementation of the fine as there may have been circumstances beyond their control. The Department Chair will investigate why the physician failed to show. If it is determined that a fine is warranted, the fine will be levied by the Department Chair. If the physician fails to pay the fine within 14 days, he/she will be suspended.

The appeal process will be through the department with a recommendation to the MEC. Reports on offenders should be made through the Medical Staff office, which will inform the Department Chair. It was also recommended that every occurrence of a violation be reported to the MEC as information.

These rules changes were approved by the MEC at the September 20, 2007, meeting. It was noted that if the rules were not changed another solution may be a multispecialty group to provide this patient care requirement.

If you have any questions, please direct them to your Department Chairman.

## Condition H for Help empowers patients, families

To allow patients and family members to call for immediate help if they become concerned with a patient's condition, St. Joseph Hospital has implemented Condition H.

If after speaking with a member of the healthcare team (nurses, charge nurses or physicians) serious concerns on how care is given, managed or planned have not been resolved, the individual may dial #66 from any hospital phone or press a call light to activate a Condition H.

This initiative enables patients and family members to play a more active role in the hospitalized patient's care, decreasing their anxiety, increasing communication and ultimately improving patient safety. It is an extension of the SJO Medical Emergency Team (MET) begun in 2004. The MET team of critical care clinicians rapidly respond and attend to a patient after a call placed by a staff member reports a patient's deteriorating condition. By implementing the MET, the number of cardiopulmonary arrests in non-critical care settings has been significantly reduced.

## SJO Quality Award

For the fourth consecutive year, St. Joseph Hospital has earned the St. Joseph Health System Annual Quality Award. Evidence-based quality care, improvements in performance, patient safety and customer satisfaction all factored into the award.

## Smooth move into Building 2

St. Joseph Hospital had a successful week with the transfer of patients to Building 2, also known as the Patient Care Center. On moving day, October 14, all patients were moved without incident. Currently daily "huddles" are held by management to review issues with Building 2. So far most items have been minor, with very few major issues.

Meetings will begin on the reuse of Building 1 and plans for retrofitting. Physician input on the reuse will be obtained throughout the process. Congratulations to all those involved in the transition.

## Robotics program matures

Launched in 2003, St. Joseph Hospital's Robotics program has been very successful. The DaVinci robot was used initially by our urologists to perform radical prostatectomies. We have since successfully performed over 625 cases - in Urology (294 cases) Gynecology (160 cases), Pediatric Surgery (106 cases), General Surgery, (27 cases) Cardiac Surgery (10 cases) and GYN-Oncology (4 cases).

Dr. Ashok Kar, Medical Director of the Robotics Program, presented our experiences this past month at the Western Section of The American Urology Association's 83rd Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

## Phone numbers & unit names changed

In conjunction with the opening of the new Patient Care Center, changes were made to the telephone extensions. The first digit now represents the building number (The existing hospital is Building 1, the new Patient Care Center is Building 2, and the South Building is Building 3). In patient care areas, the second digit represents the floor and the next two digits indicate the room number. A fifth digit designates beds in semi-private rooms.

Unit names have been changed as follows:

Physical location Bldg & Floor	Existing Name	New Name
1, 1st Floor	Behavioral Health IP Psych	Behavioral Health Unit
1, 1st Floor	Cancer Center	Regional Cancer Center
1, base	Radiation Therapy	Radiation Therapy (unchanged)
1, 1st Floor	ER	Emergency Room
1, 1st Floor	ED Behavioral	ED Behavioral (unchanged)
1, 1st Floor	ED Fastrack	ED Fastrack (unchanged)
1, 2nd Floor	2 East	Mother Baby Unit B
1, 2nd Floor	2 North	Mother Baby Unit A
1, 3rd Floor	3 East	Med/Surg Unit B
1, 3rd Floor	3 North	Medical Pulmonary
1, 3rd Floor	3 West	Med/Surg Unit A
1, 4th Floor	4 East	Cardiac/Renal B
1, 4th Floor	4 West	Cardiac/Renal A
1, 5th Floor	5 West	Future re-use; closed
1, 1st Floor	CV-ICU	CV-ICU
3, 2nd Floor	2 South	Med/Surg/Gyn Unit
3, 3rd Floor	3 South	Oncology Unit

## Changes to MS-DRGs affecting your practice

Physician-to-physician education sessions are available throughout the day on November 12, 13 and 14. Pocket reference tools and CME credit will be provided. For session times customized for your specialty and to RSVP please call 714-744-8670.

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ST. JOSEPH  
HEALTH SYSTEM

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