

medical staff briefs

A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

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Ray Casciari Named Chief Medical Officer

It is my pleasure to announce that effective January 1, 2008, Ray Casciari will join the Executive Management Team at SJO in the capacity of Chief Medical Officer.

Ray has been an advocate for patients, physicians and employees during his 29 years at St. Joseph Hospital. He has been instrumental in the development of the Patient Care Center, Sleep Lab, Zoul Auditorium, Respiratory Department, Hospitalist and Intensivist programs and the Lift Team. He has also helped conceptualize the safety net for unassigned Emergency Department patients, and has been a leader of the Lung Cancer Program. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care.

Our new CMO is a St. Joseph Hospital Values in Action Award winner for Excellence. He is also Past President of the American Lung Association of Orange County and the Providence Association. Ray has been named in Best Doctors in America for the Pacific Region and has been recognized as a Physician of Excellence by the Orange County Medical Association. He served as Chief of Staff from 2000-2002 and is the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees. His term on the Board will end December 31, 2007.

Ray's passion for St. Joseph Hospital, and the community it serves, is well recognized. Please congratulate him on this important appointment.



Larry Ainsworth,
President and CEO

NPI Alert

Please be aware that whenever you are working with or referring to another physician, that physician's National Provider Identification number (NPI) must be listed on the chart. Their NPI number may be easily obtained via the Internet at <<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do>>

According to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), some clearinghouses are stripping the NPI prior to submission of the claim to Medicare. This will affect adversely eligible physicians in that these claims will not count toward Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) participation. CMS urges eligible physicians to check with their clearinghouse to assure NPIs are not being stripped from claims.

A recent article containing important information for Medicare providers and suppliers, including how to use the NPI correctly on Part A and Part B claims, can be viewed at <<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0725.pdf>> on the CMS website.

New Medicare Severity-DRG's are coming

Effective October 1, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will implement 745 new severity-adjusted DRGs (Medicare Severity DRGs or MS-DRGs). They will replace the current 538 DRGs in order to fully capture severity of illness among patients.

The MS-DRG system will subdivide diagnosis codes into three levels of complication/comorbidity (CC) severity: Major CC (MCC), CC and non-CC. MCCs are the highest level of severity and include such secondary diagnoses as

sepsis, all types of pneumonia and respiratory failure. CCs include such secondary diagnoses as COPD in acute exacerbation, diastolic/systolic heart failure, and most cancers. Secondary diagnoses that are classified as non-CCs do not affect the DRG assignment.

Most of the time coders can get this information from the Physician's H & P, including the reason the patient was admitted, as well as any secondary or chronic conditions. However, if the coder cannot determine whether a condition was pres-

ent on admission, they will query the physician.

Physicians and coders will work together to achieve complete and correct documentation, code assignment, and reporting of diagnosis and procedures. Excellent reporting of documentation and coding is the key to accurate physician and hospital data as well as appropriate reimbursements based on patient acuity.

Patient Care Center (Bldg 2) opens October 14!

St. Joseph Hospital Surgical Services move-in dates

Monday, Oct. 8	Full schedule in the Main OR
Tuesday, Oct. 9	Full schedule in the Main OR
Wednesday, Oct 10	Urgent & emergent cases only Move OR Rms 6, 7 & 12 starting at 6 am
Thursday, Oct 11	Urgent & emergent cases only Move OR Rms 4, 5 & 14 starting at 6 am
Friday, Oct 12	Urgent & emergent cases only Move OR Rms 8, 9, 10 & 11 starting at 6 am
Saturday, Oct 13	Urgent & emergent cases only
Sunday, Oct 14	Urgent & emergent cases only
Monday, Oct 15	Specific blocks only Main OR (Bldg 2): Run 4 rooms with blocks Laminar Rooms 6,7,8, 9 & Call Room CVOR (Bldg 1): 4 rooms
Tuesday, Oct 16	Specific blocks only Main OR (Bldg 2): Run 6 rooms with blocks - Laminar rooms 6,7,8,9 Gyne, Neuro & Call Room CVOR (Bldg 1): 4 rooms
Wednesday, Oct 17	All OR Suites operational Main OR (Bldg 2): Run all 14 rooms CVOR (Bldg 1): 4 rooms

The Surgery Center remains operational at all times Mon- Fri.

St. Joseph Hospital's perinatal hospice

Parents of an unborn baby or newborn with a life-threatening diagnosis are offered psychosocial supportive services through the St. Joseph Perinatal Comfort Care program. Since 2005, this innovative program has served patients under the care of St. Joseph Hospital physicians. Due to its success in providing much-needed, non-medical support and education, the program has secured grant funding from the St. Joseph Health System Foundation to expand its reach to families at St. Jude Medical Center and Mission Hospital.

The St. Joseph Perinatal Comfort Care program is the only perinatal hospice in Orange County and one of 37 in the U.S. according to its coordinator, St. Joseph Hospice Community Educator Suzanne Engelder, MSW. Dr. Peter Anzaldo serves as its medical director. The PCC program at SJO will be featured at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet conference to be held in October in Atlanta, GA.

To make a referral to the PCC program, please call the St. Joseph Hospice Admission Coordinator at (714) 712-9559.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Role of IV Beta-Blockers in Cardiovascular Disease

Arthur J. Labovitz, MD, Cardiologist, Professor of Medicine,
St. Louis University Health Sciences Center

Thursday, October 18, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the OCMA Turnip Rose

Minimally Invasive Hip Replacement:

Anterior Approach and Emerging Technologies

Steve Barnett, MD, & Jack Chen, MD, SJO Orthopedic Surgeons
Thursday, November 1, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Mr. Stox, Anaheim

To register for these free programs call (866) 714-1777.

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ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

A Ministry of the
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