

medical staff briefs

A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

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St. Joseph Hospital receives FACT accreditation

The St. Joseph Hospital Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Transplant program (HPCT), formerly known as the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) program, is proud to announce its accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) for Adult Autologous Transplant and Collection (Apheresis and Bone Marrow) and Processing. On July 20 we became the first Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant program in Orange County to achieve this prestigious, voluntary accreditation.

FACT is an international accreditation committee of experts in the field of cellular therapy and blood and marrow transplantation. To attain this recognition, a transplant program must meet rigorous standards with an intense quality component, which is integrated throughout the entire program. An on-site inspection of the facility, staff, policies and procedures to validate this integration is required to achieve accreditation. Programs must submit extensive documentation validating compliance with the FACT Standards prior to the on-site visit. FACT is the only accrediting agency that addresses all quality aspects of cellular therapy treatments: clinical care, donor management, cell collection, cell processing, cell storage, cell transportation and administration.

St. Joseph Hospital was the first hospital in Orange County to perform a bone marrow transplant in 1988, and to date has performed more than 300 transplants. The HPCT program at St. Joseph Hospital is the largest community hospital Collection Center and Apheresis Center for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), and has collected over 470 products for transplant both in the US and internationally.

Changes in Medicare notification on appeal rights

Upon admission, all Medicare-eligible patients receive documentation on their appeal rights. Effective July 2, 2007, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) requires that a signed copy of this appeal information be again given to the patient within two days of discharge. The appeal rights document explains to the patient how to appeal the discharge decision if the patient feels he or she is being discharged too soon. If the patient appeals the discharge, the patient may potentially remain in the hospital for two to three additional days after a discharge order has been written. This is the time allowed for the appeal process.

To avoid any surprises, discuss with your patient your discharge plans in complete detail and as early as possible. If you need assistance with a discharge plan, please contact the case manager as soon as possible. If you have questions concerning this new regulation, please contact Case Management at (714) 771-8106 or a member of the Utilization Review Committee.

St. Joseph Hospital Benefit and TODOS Auction

The 35th annual St. Joseph Hospital Benefit and TODOS auction will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at the Anaheim Marriott. The "Celebration of Hope and Healing" features dining and dancing and guarantees to be a great evening in support of our hospital. Proceeds will benefit our new Cancer Center. The TODOS auction promises to be another great success with an outstanding array of live and silent items available for bidding. If you would like to purchase a table to include your colleagues or office staff, or to learn more about sponsorship, underwriting or advertisement or item donation opportunities, please call (714) 771-8211 or visit www.sjo.org.

CCORP report recognizes Cardiovascular excellence

The latest California Report on Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery was released by CCORP (California CABG Outcomes Reporting Program) on July 12. The report includes hospital data collected from the Society of Thoracic Surgery Database from 2003 to 2004 and reflects operative mortality rates for CABG surgery in California. St. Joseph Hospital was one of the top ranked hospitals in California and number one in Orange County with an Observed Mortality Rate of only 0.92%. St. Joseph Hospital had a total of 427 CABG cases and only 3 deaths. The average operative mortality rate in California was 3.29% and nationally was 2.4% in 2003 to 2004. The cardiac surgery multidisciplinary team at St. Joseph Hospital has achieved Perfect Care for five months straight in 2007.

To see the full report or individual hospital and surgeon reports go to <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Outcomes/Studies/cabg/200304HospSurgReport/index.htm>.

St. Joseph Hospital was also recognized by the California Association Society of California Surgery (CASTS) as one of the best practice hospitals in California and was visited by the CASTS team on July 19th. They were impressed with our overall program and our multidisciplinary team approach. The best practices utilized at our hospital will be shared with other hospitals to help improve overall outcomes in cardiac surgery programs throughout California.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Prostate cancer program & dinner

St. Joseph Hospital invites you to attend an educational program and dinner featuring "Managing Quality of Life Issues After Prostate Cancer Treatment or Surgery" on Tuesday, September 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Antonello Ristorante in Santa Ana.

Cardiovascular Services Educational Dinner Series, Sept '07 - June '08

First in the Series:

Wednesday, September 19, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
at the OCMA/Turnip Rose

"Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy"

Thomas Kim, MD, Cardiologist

Medical Director, Non-invasive Cardiology
Jay Lee, MD, Electrophysiologist/Cardiologist
Medical Director, Electrophysiology

Bariatric Program Open House

You are invited to the Bariatric Program Open House for an educational program and dinner on Thursday, September 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 1140 W. La Veta Ave., Suite 760. Dr. Eric Pham will discuss minimally invasive bariatric surgery and the lap-band as a surgical alternative.

Hereditary Colon Cancer and the Gastroenterologist

Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Antonello Ristorante, Santa Ana

Jeffrey Weitzel, M.D., City of Hope

"Hereditary Colon Cancer:

Why You Want to Know"

Anita K. Gregory, M.D., St. Joseph Hospital

Colorectal Center Co-Medical Director

"How Genetic Cancer Risk Assessment

Works for You"

Kimberly Banks, MS, CGC7,

Case Presentations

Oncoplasty program & dinner

Thursday, October 4, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse in Costa Mesa

Dr. Jay Harness, M.D., General Surgeon,

Arthur Salabian, M.D.,

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon,

and Portia Chiou, M.D.,

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon.

**To register for any of these free programs,
please call (866) 714-1777.**

Compliance sought on signing verbal orders

Verbal or telephone orders for medications and biologicals must be signed within **24** hours after the order was given. The order may be signed by either the attending physician or another practitioner directly involved in the patient's care. If orders are not signed in a timely fashion as required by regulatory agencies, the practitioner shall be given notice that further infractions may result in corrective action or fine. This policy has been approved by the Medical Executive Committee.

We are mindful of the bureaucratic pressures placed on physicians, and we recognize that perfect compliance with the requirement that verbal orders be signed within 24 hours may be difficult. Nevertheless, this is a CMS, DHS, and Joint Commission requirement. We have no choice other than to make every reasonable effort to comply. Furthermore, we were cited on this issue during our last Joint Commission survey, which makes it certain they will specifically check our performance in this area during our next survey. We earnestly request your best efforts in complying with this requirement.

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ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

A Ministry of the
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