

WHAT'S UP?

FMC PHYSICIAN NEWSLETTER

February 2008

Passport to Surgery

In an effort to make the throughput process easier on surgical inpatients, a new form has been developed to streamline the pre-op process.

Dr. Dan Kaminskis, Medical Director of the OR, developed the "Passport to Surgery" form based on an idea from a hospital in Georgia. The form pulls together multiple pre-op steps including H&P, labs, EKG, anesthesia questionnaire and medication checklists.

Many providers take care of patients before surgery, and there are many scattered steps that need to be taken before surgeries. This form pulls everything together to help avoid delays due to missing pieces prior to a patient having surgery.

The Passport to Surgery form has been through several OR subcommittees and the Clinical Results Council. A February implementation is planned.

Quality Improvement Committee

The Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) now is doing centralized peer review at FMC according to hospital bylaws. QIC has a physician quality focus, with the same operational structure as the Physician Review Committee (PRC), however the focus is clinical concerns.

PRC has been in existence for about five years. The group investigates and monitors physician behavioral concerns and in some instances recommends action to the Medical Executive Committee, which in turn makes recommendations to the FMC Board of Directors.

QIC is comprised of seasoned physician leaders who will serve several-year terms to ensure consistency in how issues are handled. Clinical concerns will filter to this group, and physicians always will be made aware if a case they were involved with is being looked at. The goal of the group is continuous process improvement.

Dr. Tom Gaughan, QIC chair, states that while not common, most physician quality issues occur across all physician specialties, with only about 20 percent related to specific specialties. The intent of QIC is to help identify potential process issues and raise awareness, so that through early intervention, fairness and education physicians can self-correct before minor issues become larger problems.

Down the line, QIC also will have a performance feedback reporting mechanism in place so physicians can see their performance relative to other medical staff. These reports also may be used in the future by the hospital's Credentialing Committee. For more information about the QIC, please contact Tom or me.

Family Practice/Internal Medicine consultant spends two weeks in Flagstaff

FMC offered two weeks of one-on-one practice management consulting to Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Pediatric physicians in January.

In a meeting with primary care physicians in September, we discussed ways the hospital could help with the primary care crisis in Flagstaff. As part of our mission to help provide the community with quality healthcare, we believe this is just one way to facilitate an improved environment for primary care physicians in Flagstaff.

Group purchasing available to physicians

FMC is offering access to a group purchasing plan. The hope is this will help reduce office overhead.

If you don't have an arrangement like this yet, FMC can connect you to a program that may help you save time and money. ESurg is a group purchasing plan that may save you about 15 to 20 percent on the supplies you already use, even capital purchases such as furniture and equipment.

For more information or to get started, call Physician Relations Coordinator Keli Openshaw at ext. 12197 or John Tribble, ESurg Director of Sales, at 206 826-6454.

Pediatric urologists in Flagstaff once a month

Barry Chang, M.D., and Philip Gleason, M.D., from Banner Health System will provide a pediatric urology clinic one day a month in Flagstaff. Beginning in February, patients can make initial and follow-up appointments with Drs. Chang and Gleason. All referrals from Flagstaff can be made through their central office by calling 602 404-3700, or via fax at 602 404-3703. Clinics will be held in the Flagstaff Pediatrics office space at 107 E. Oak Street, Suite 101.

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Flagstaff Medical Center
Northern Arizona Healthcare

What's Up, continued

2008 Medical Executive Committee

Below are the physicians who make up this year's MEC. The new Medical Staff President, Dr. Dan Shaw, ED, has outlined goals for 2008 and beyond, including: review/revise Medical Staff structure; review/improve One Call and Referral Line; review/improve hospital throughput; address physician on-call issues; and accelerate the development of the Quality Improvement Committee. If you have any ideas in any of these areas, please contact Dr. Shaw or any of the MEC members. Also please join me in thanking this hard-working group for all they do.



Daniel Shaw, M.D.
President



Sarah Hsia, M.D.
Emergency



Ed Herman, M.D.
Radiology



Jennifer Kottra, M.D.
President Elect



Bradford Croft, D.O.
Family Practice



Bradley Nicol, M.D.
Surgery



Richard Hays, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer



Mark Lacy, M.D.
Medicine



Brian Bates, M.D.
Anesthesia



Robert Berger, M.D.
At-Large Member



Perry Lin, M.D.
OB/GYN



Amber Randall, M.D.
At-Large Member



Forrest Ritland, M.D.
Pathology



Theodore Lewis, M.D.
At-Large Member



Alice Berger, M.D.
Pediatrics



Emmalee Kennedy, M.D.
At-Large Member



Cody Wright, M.D.
Psychiatry/Neurology

*Comments on What's Up?
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