

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2009

pulse



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A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

FAP continues development

Thank you one and all for your suggestions and questions regarding the LMH Financial-Action Plan, (FAP), that was developed in response to the reduction in revenue LMH is experiencing as a result of the downturn in the economy. The increase in unemployment has put most national hospitals in a financial bind. Managed-care patients, and their reimbursements to hospitals, have decreased; and unemployed and uninsured patients have increased. Additionally, because of the economy, many people who are still employed are opting for medical plans with much higher deductibles, which hospitals are finding, many cannot pay. All of this makes for a perfect storm for hospital bottom lines. Federal and state reimbursements for Medi-Cal and Medicare patients are further expected to impact hospitals' finances and operations. Most hospitals in the United States are crafting FAPs to maintain their viability. Many of their action plans involve closing service lines, reducing positions and laying off employees. Rather than take this route, LMH has opted for reductions in other areas in order to preserve the jobs of hospital employees. The hospital's FAP continues to be a work in progress, and many excellent suggestions and comments have been directed to administration via the FAP hotline, ext. 7887. All are being considered by LMH's board and administration. All staff can view all the suggestions and comments on the electronic-employee-bulletin board. Elements of the FAP are guided by these tenets: continue to provide quality, personal care; continue to provide access to care; preserve a competent work force; and open and grow the new services in progress, such as the South Wing. There is not a lot to report this week, as we have been focusing on the implementation of the expense reductions scheduled to begin on July 19. Please take a minute to visit the electronic-employee-bulletin board to get an update, www.lmhemployees.org. Right now the inpatient census is taking its normal summer swings. The week before last, we saw a low of 89 patients and high of 112. The payor mix continues to see a higher number of self-pay patients, and the economic outlook doesn't appear good. As always, we will continue to provide services to all patients and do our best to assist those who are unable to pay for their services. Thank you to all for the good work you do. Please keep suggestions and comments coming via the FAP hotline. Employees can also direct comments or suggestions to their supervisors. Human Resources has extended their hours to assist employees who wish to make benefit-plan changes, (Joe Harrington, ext. 7560).

LMH welcomes new QMS director



Donna Salvi has come aboard as the new director of LMH's Quality-Management Department. She brings excellent experience with her including many years in leadership positions at regional hospitals, including emergency departments. Most recently Donna served as the chief-nursing officer at Kaiser in Modesto and Manteca. She recently completed her MBA. Donna lives in Stockton and has two grown children. She loves gardening, and hers focuses on eliciting a Zen feeling. She appreciates and strives for a holistic philosophy to create a peaceful life, home and workplace. She also loves dancing, especially salsa and ballet. Welcome, Donna, (Mark Sey, ext. 7439).

LMH's Wortley House helps families

LMH's Wortley House was established through a donation by the Sydney C. Wortley Estate to LMH to provide temporary living arrangements for families of LMH patients who are experiencing hardships in being with hospitalized patients. It is conveniently located just south of the hospital. It is meant to assist families of patients in serious, unstable or critical condition. Family members who may be eligible are screened by LMH's Social Services to determine whether they meet qualifying criteria. Staff who identify patients who may qualify for use should call Social Services to initiate the screening process, (Valerie Cronin, ext. 7933).

Site shows quality comparisons

On July 9, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, (CMS), released a new report on 30-day readmission rates, as well as updated mortality information for Medicare patients treated at hospitals for acute myocardial infarction (AMI), heart failure and pneumonia. This information, along with updated patient-experience data, is available to the public via the Hospital Compare website at www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov. At this site, information comparing hospitals' performance is available, so patients and community members can view how LMH compares to St. Joe's, Dameron, San Joaquin County General, as well as Sacramento hospitals. Hospitals first began publicly reporting quality-of-care information on AMI, heart failure and pneumonia on the Hospital Compare website in 2004. Since that time, the amount of information available to the public has expanded, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Med staff adds to formulary

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee performs an ongoing review of LMH's drug formulary and in May reviewed several therapeutic categories. Several drugs were recommended for addition to the formulary based on clinical needs. The following drugs were approved by the medical staff for formulary addition:

- Methadone 10mg/1ml oral concentrate (Methadone 10mg/1ml intensol) replaces Methadone 1mg/ml oral solution. ISMP recommends stocking only one concentration, and 10mg/ml may be used to give higher doses with smaller volume of liquid. Monitor pain scale.
- Opium/Belladonna 30/16.2mg suppositories (B&O 30/16.2mg suppositories) was previously deleted when item was discontinued by manufacturer. Now available from Paddock. Needed to treat bladder spasms in urology surgery patients per Dr. Sorbera. Monitor pain scale.
- Hydromorphone 1mg/1ml syringe (Dilaudid 1mg/1ml syringe) in addition to Hydromorphone 2mg/1ml syringe. Lower strength requested by nursing to minimize waste. Monitor pain scale.
- Argatroban 100mg/ml, 2.5ml vial (ARGATROBAN 100mg/ml, 2.5ml vial) anticoagulant/thrombolytics indicated for heparin-induced thrombocytopenia. Order set developed to facilitate ordering and administration. Monitoring parameters include hemoglobin/hematocrit, aPTT, platelet count, serum creatinine, stool guaiac and urinalysis.
- Insulin Detemir 100units/1ml 10ml vial (Levemir 100 units/1ml 10ml vial) basal insulin indicated for the treatment of diabetes. Dosage is individualized to patient response, and may be administered once or twice daily. Monitor blood glucose and HbA1c.
- Doripenem 500mg powder for injection (Doribax 500mg powder for injection) broad-spectrum carbapenem with potent in vitro antibacterial activity against aerobic and anaerobic gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Phase III clinical studies indicate that Doripenem is more potent than imipenem, meropenem, or ertapenem against *P. aeruginosa* isolates from patients with nosocomial pneumonia. Usual dosage is 500mg IV every eight hours, duration varies by site and severity of the infection. Renal dosing is 250mg IV Q8H for CrCl=30-50, or 250mg IV Q12H for CrCl=10-30. Monitor serum creatinine/BUN along with signs/symptoms of infection, (Sandy Atwater, ext. 7555).

LMH's Medical Records remodels

The LMH Medical Records Department is in the process of a remodel in preparation to make room for the transcriptionists who will be moving out of the Business Office and into Medical Records. Preparation for the remodel included purging all the paper charts to off-site storage, which has been a huge project, (Nancy Moran, ext. 7531).

Congrats, Sony



Congratulations to Sony Fua, RN, MBA, who has just completed his masters in business administration, (Mark Sey, ext. 7439).

LMHer re-named to commission

The Lodi City Council, at its regular meeting on June 17, concurred with the mayor's recommendation to reappoint LMH Adult Day Care Director Terri Whitmire for an additional term as a member of the San Joaquin County Commission of Aging. This will be Terri's third term as a San Joaquin County Commissioner. In addition, Terri sits on the City of Lodi Senior Commission and serves as treasurer on the California Adult Day Care State Association. Those with senior concerns for the city, county or state should let Terri know, (Terri Whitmire, 369-4443).

Volunteers sought

Lodi Memorial Hospital is looking for friendly, outgoing individuals to escort patients and visitors around the hospital once the South Wing is open. Those with neighbors, friends or family members who would enjoy volunteering at LMH should invite them to apply. Also needed are volunteers to help staff the hospital's brand-new gift shop and individuals with medical backgrounds to become patient advocates. Applications can be found at www.lodihealth.org, or call 339-7616 for more information, (Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616).

Gently used magazines still needed

We continue to supply the hospital waiting rooms with reading material, but often the magazines are taken home or thrown out. There is a constant need of used, contemporary magazines so please consider recycling magazines that have been published within the past six months. Weekly magazines, such as Time or People, should be no more than four weeks old. No need to rip the subscription tag off; we will black out your name and address and place a white label over the area. Donations can be left in the Community Development box in the mailroom or delivered to 845 S. Fairmont Ave., Ste. 9, (Debbie George, ext. 7970).

Many thanks for returned meal card

Surgery nurse Mille Brown couldn't be more impressed with or comforted by the honesty of fellow LMHers. A week or so ago she had purchased a \$30 meal card in the LMH dining room. A day or two later, the card was misplaced, left in the pocket of her scrubs. The next day that she worked, she realized the card was missing, so she went to the laundry department to inquire about it. The staff assured her they would keep an eye out for it. The very next morning, the card was returned to her, with every penny accounted for, (Millie Brown, ext. 7537).