Better Communications Needed on Consult Orders, Admissions

Poor communications continue to adversely affect the processing of consult orders, as well as determinations on whether to admit patients from the St. Peter's Emergency Department.

In a large number of consult orders, physicians are not citing a specific physician or practice group when filling out a consult order. Without a specific name, considerable time is lost as nurses try to sort out the confusion, according to St. Peter's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Robert Cella.

Poor communications are also hampering the work of St. Peter's Emergency Department where the decision to admit a patient is often slowed by the lack of direct physician-to-physician contact. Patients would be admitted or discharged sooner if physicians talked or communicated with each other directly rather than having physicians or staff in the Emergency Department act as an intermediary between the physicians on a particular case.

"We urgently need these issues addressed by our physicians; otherwise, operations inside the hospital will continue to be slowed by the lack of clear and/or direct communication," Dr. Cella said.

Drs. Mishkin & Rowley Named St. Peter's Physicians of the Year

Dr. Richard Rowley and Dr. Jonathan Mishkin, have been named St. Peter's Physicians of the Year 2010. They will be honored at the annual meeting of the St. Peter's Board of Trustees on April 29, 2010.

Dr. Rowley attended Duke University School of Medicine and served as resident, then Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Conn. He attained full certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1986. Dr. Rowley also completed his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Yale-New Haven Hospital, serving as Chief Resident with fellowship training in Body Cross Sectional Imaging.

Dr. Rowley returned to the Capital District in 1990, serving as staff radiologist at Ellis Hospital before joining the Medical Imaging Physician staff of St. Peter's Hospital in 1991. He served as Chief of Medical Imaging at St. Peter's Hospital from 1997 until 2002. Dr. Rowley is currently president of Northeast Advanced Imaging and has served as President of Prime Care Physicians since 2006.

(Continued on next page)
Physicians of the Year (cont’d.)

Dr. Mishkin graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. His post-residency training included fellowships in Angiography/Interventional Radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Neuroradiology at the Hospital De Le Timone in Marseille, France.

Dr. Mishkin came to the Capital Region in 1987. Board Certified in Diagnostic Radiology and Vascular/Interventional Radiology, Dr. Mishkin joined the Department of Medical Imaging at Albany Memorial Hospital in 1987 and then moved to St. Peter's Hospital in 1991. He has been Clinical Chief of St. Peter's Hospital, Department of Medical Imaging, since 2002.

Surgical Waiting, Consult Rooms Moving to New Space on First Floor

Starting Monday, April 5, St. Peter's is temporarily moving the Surgical Waiting Area, as well as its family consult rooms, to the first-floor area near the cafeteria that formerly housed the Mercy Conference Rooms.

The moves are part of a new phase in St. Peter's modernization project. This phase is expected to conclude in December.

While a "quick consult" room will be located inside the new Waiting Area, a private consult room will be located across the hall from the hospital's Security Department. This consult room will be located next to the recently-relocated Chapel (Room 1329A).

Online Survey Available for NYS Safe Injections Campaign

In recent years New York State has seen well-publicized events of blood-borne pathogens being transmitted through unsafe injection practices, such as reusing syringes. "One and Only” is a national awareness campaign to promote safe injection practices, in which the New York State Health Department is testing the effectiveness of educational materials targeted at both healthcare providers and patients.

The state's "Safe Injection Practices Coalition" is asking physicians, nurses and other providers to take an anonymous online survey regarding their own injection practices and to evaluate a poster and other proposed campaign materials. The survey is available at http://chws.albany.edu/injectionsafety.

The primary goal of the national “One and Only” campaign is to raise awareness of the critical need for safe injection practices; first, among those healthcare providers who lack adequate training or who may be operating in a clinical culture that allows for infection-control lapses.

A second goal is to help educate and empower the general public with knowledge about safe injection practices to promote open discussion with their providers.

Medical Grand Rounds

Medical Grand Rounds (for CME credit) are held from 8-9 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Conference Room of St. Peter's Cancer Care Center, 317 S. Manning Blvd.

April 7 – No program this week.

April 14 – “New Therapies for Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma (NSCLC)” By Roman Perez-Soler, M.D., Gutman Professor of Medicine, Chairman, Department of Oncology, Montefiore Medical Center, Director, Division of Medical Oncology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Associate Director for Clinical Research, Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Bronx, New York.

April 21 – “Tobacco Cessation for the Overworked Clinician: It’s Easier for You Than You Think” By Scott Schroder, M.D., Director, Division of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine, Albany Medical Center.

April 28 – “Interventional Approaches to Acute Stroke”

By Jennifer Yanoschak, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, Stroke and Neurocritical Care, Albany Medical College, Department of Neurosciences.

Please Save the Date

St. Peter's will honor its Hospital Medical and Dental Staff, as well as St. Peter's Hospital Allied Health Professional Staff, with its annual recognition dinner on Friday, Nov. 12 at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia.

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The St. Peter's Physician is published by the Department of Medical Affairs and the Corporate Communications Department of St. Peter’s Health Care Services. All topic ideas should be forwarded to Jon Sorensen at jsorensen@sphcs.org or call (518) 525-1232.