

Medical Staff Progress Notes

Volume 4, Number 10 October, 1992



From the President

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We have recently reviewed the activities and results of the Physician Well-Being Group which has been meeting for over a year now. Included in this process was a review of the group's effectiveness including assessments of those who participated. The overwhelming consensus was that the process has been quite helpful to most of those involved with a strong recommendation for continuation of this program.

Accordingly, we are planning to continue supporting the Physician Well-Being Group for the coming year. As previously described, this group serves as a forum to discuss and hopefully help physicians deal effectively with the problems and stresses of current practice. It is not a forum for dealing with physical, drug, or psychologic impairment, for which other types of intervention are available. Further information about the Physician Well-Being Group, including the meeting schedule, is available through the POPS Office at

We are also looking into the possibility of making available an individual counseling plan for physicians, similar to the Employee Assistance Program.

This would be available for those who wish to meet with a professional counselor on a one-to-one basis to discuss personal problems. Further details, including the funding, still need to be worked out. We will keep you posted.

U.S. Representative Don Ritter has been meeting with a Hospital Advisory Group, made up of representatives from the area's health care institutions. Recently, Mr. Ritter met with a group of physician leaders from the Lehigh Valley in a meeting held here. A broad range of topics was discussed as well as current physician concerns. The message received from Mr. Ritter was that there is strong pressure for some type of federal cost control mechanisms because of widespread concern over health care financing.

The other "hot" item on the national health care legislative agenda is the access to care issue, i.e., coverage for the 35 to 40 million people who are under- and uninsured. The need for proactive approaches from within the health care community to these challenging issues is becoming increasingly clear. Should such solutions not be forthcoming, then it is obvious we will have them imposed on us from legislators, entrepreneurs, and other outside interests who are much less knowledgeable about the realities of modern medical care.

402-2780.



Daylight Saving Time ends on October 25 -don't forget to set vour clocks back one hour!

The Raleigh Group has been selected as our consultant for the medical staff-wide PPO feasibility study. The first phase will be collection of necessary data including the current status of third party payer arrangements with various members of the Medical Staff. Some of you may be contacted for interviews by the Raleigh Group. Your cooperation will facilitate their efforts and make their eventual report more meaningful.

The proposal to eliminate mandatory attendance requirements for the General Medical Staff and committee

meetings has generally been well received. Attendance will still be taken so that we have a good record of who is participating and contributing to these important Medical Staff functions. Our current plans are to have a trial period under the new system and evaluate the outcome in approximately six months.

John Jaffe, M.D. Prevident, Medical Staff

Parking News - Cedar Crest & I-78

Construction of the new John and Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78, has meant temporary changes in parking. As announced in last month's newsletter, all physicians who spend a major portion of the day at the hospital are requested to park in the third section (most distant from the building) of the Physicians' Parking Lot. The first and second sections of the parking lot should be used by those physicians who come and go throughout the day.

When the physicians' lot is full, parking for physicians will also be available in the Short Term Parking Lot located behind the hospital at the west end of the engineering building.

Members of the Security Department will be stationed throughout the parking areas and will be available to direct you.

Your cooperation and patience are appreciated during this temporary inconvenience.

Pharmacy Product Availability



Prochlorperazine Injection (Compazine) is now available and will be dispensed as ordered.

Revised Administrative Directive for Event Reporting Approved

Lehigh Valley Hospital shall assure there is a mechanism to report any occurrence/situation which is not consistent with the routine operation of the hospital or routine care of a patient or has given rise to injury or harm. This policy is in compliance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Rules and Regulations and JCAHO. These are interdepartmental tools within the hospital to identify these areas of risk and as such are prepared in anticipation of litigation and to facilitate the quality improvement process.

An event, as stated in Administrative Directive 2200.01, is any happening not consistent with the routine operation of the hospital or routine care of a patient. It may be an accident or a situation which may result in an accident.

According to the policy, the individual discovering an event is responsible to initiate an Event Report. A copy of the hospital's Event Report is attached to the newsletter for your information.

The above policy, AD 2200.01 - Event Report, is available in its entirety in the Administrative Policy Manual which you may review in Medical Staff Services.

NEWS FROM THE MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT JCAHO requires that discharge instructions be noted by a chart note or chart order or in the discharge summary or by completing a discharge instruction sheet, yet in less than 15% of the inpatient charts is this requirement fulfilled.

Please, at discharge, note the principal diagnosis, other diagnoses that required

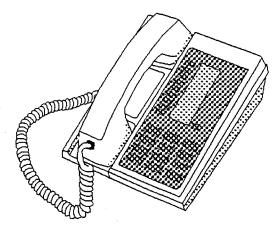
action, abnormals at time of discharge and plans for their follow-up, pending study results, disposition and support, diet, medications, activity restrictions, and follow-up visit plans.

Your anticipated cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

HealthPage News

With the recent telephone upgrade, the quantity of call park numbers has increased. The number sequence has also changed. The new call park numbers are 0960 through 0999.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul L. Klee, General Manager, HealthPage, at 402-1801.



Renovations - Special Care Unit/6A

Effective September 28, the Special Care Unit reduced its census to 12 patients. This change was necessary to accommodate the renovations scheduled through December 10. Admission and discharge criteria will remain the same.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Gary Guldin, Manager, Patient Care Services, Special Care Unit, at 402-8727.

New Patient I.D. Bracelets Implemented

On September 14, reusable snap identification and allergy bracelets were implemented in the hospital after being evaluated on several patient care units. The reusable bracelet can be moved from one extremity to another. Therefore, if you need to remove a bracelet because it will interfere with a procedure, simply unsnap the bracelet and move it to another extremity. DO NOT CUT OFF THE REUSABLE BRACELET.

This type of reusable bracelet will NOT be used on psychiatric, obstetric, pediatric, or confused patients. Permanent bands will still be used with these patients.

If you have any questions regarding the new reusable bracelets, please contact Fran Worman at 402-8256.

Congratulations!

F. Michael Adams, M.D., family practitioner, was recently notified that he successfully completed the Certification Examination and has become a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice.

Scott A. Gradwell, D.M.D., periodontist, successfully passed the Fellowship Exam for the American Academy of General Dentistry. Howard A. Israel, M.D., allergist, and his wife, Susan, welcomed a baby daughter on August 22. Chloe Jaye weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. at birth. She has a brother, Michael.

Jay E. Melman, M.D., D.P.M., podiatrist, successfully passed both parts of the 1992 Foot Surgery certification examination and has become a Diplomate of the American Board of Podiatric Surgery with Certification in Foot Surgery.

Joseph M. Pascuzzo, D.O., hematologist/medical oncologist, was recently certified in Hematology by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

Craig R. Reckard, M.D., chief, Transplant Services, and his wife, Ginamarie, welcomed a baby daughter on August 3. Christina weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. at birth. She has two brothers, Jonathan and Justin.

Raymond L. Singer, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon, won first prize for the Best Resident's Paper at the Pennsylvania Association for Thoracic Surgery meeting. The paper, which Dr. Singer authored during his residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, is titled Complications from Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia in Patients Undergoing Cardio Pulmonary Bypass.

F. Geoffrey Toonder, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon, was re-appointed membership chairman of the Pennsylvania Association for Thoracic Surgery.

Publications, Papers and Presentations

George A. Arangio, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, co-authored an article, Intraarticular Pressures in a Gravity-Fed Arthroscopy Fluid Delivery System, which was published in Vol. 8, No. 3 of Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic and Related Surgery.

Houshang G. Hamadani, M.D., psychiatrist, was the chairperson for Symposium VII -- Field Studies and Clinical Approaches: Asia and the Pacific, which was part of the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture held recently in Narni, Italy.

Patrick Hanley, D.O., medical resident, recently presented his paper, Nosocomial Herpes Simplex Virus Infection Associated with Oral Endo-Tracheal Airways, at a meeting of the American College of Physicians held at

Thomas Jefferson University. The paper was co-authored by Luther V. Rhodes III, M.D., chief, Infectious Diseases, Diane C. Halstead, Ph.D., Director, Microbiology/Virology/Immunology, and Mary Conaway, R.N., B.S.N.

Luther V. Rhodes III, M.D., Margaret Hoffman-Terry, M.D., medical resident, and James F. Reed III, Ph.D., Director of Research, coauthored an article, Impact of Human Immunodeficiency Virus on Medical and Surgical Residents, which was published in the September 1992 issue of Archives of Internal Medicine, a publication of the American Medical Association.

Upcoming Seminars, Conferences, and Meetings

Regional Symposium Series IV

Fourth Annual Neuroscience Symposium: Neuroscience Intensive Care will be held on Friday, October 16, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78.

At the completion of this program, participants should be able to present current research findings with clinical application for Guillian-Barre' Syndrome and coma; discuss the use and efficacy of thrombolytic therapy in acute stroke; and discuss neurosurgical approaches to the injured brain, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and spinal cord trauma.

Physicians, nurses, and other health care workers concerned with management of patients requiring neuroscience intensive care will benefit from the program.

From Newborns to Nursing Homes: A Lifetime of Infections will be held Thursday, October 22, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and Friday, October 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78.

This program will benefit physicians, nurses, laboratory staff, day care personnel, and other professionals interested in an update on diagnosis and treatment of infections in all ages.

Following the program, participants should be able to identify at least one infection that might occur in the neonatal period, the employment age, and the elder years. Participants will also be able to identify two methods of preventing and controlling these infections and describe two laboratory methods for identifying them.

Rheumatology Symposium: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78.

This program is targeted for nurses, physicians, and other health care professionals interested in systemic lupus erythematosus. Following the program, the participant should be able to describe the immunopathology of SLE, the clinical manifestations of SLE, the skin manifestation of SLE, how SLE affects the kidney, and the current treatments for SLE.

For more information about these programs, please contact Human Resource Development at 402-8322.

Medical Grand Rounds

Chronic Hepatitis B & C will be presented by Santiago J. Munoz, M.D., Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology, Jefferson Medical College, on Tuesday, October 20.

What You Always Wanted to Know But Did Not Ask About the Heparins will be presented by David Prager, M.D., Chief, Division of Hematology/ Medical Oncology, and Director, John & Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center, on Tuesday, October 27.

Medical Grand Rounds are held each Tuesday beginning at noon in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78.

For more information, call the Department of Medicine at 402-8200.

Geriatric Psychiatry

Alan P. Siegal, M.D., an eminent geriatric psychiatrist from Yale University School of Medicine, will present two lectures on October 21:

Management of Agitation in the Elderly will be presented at noon in the Fairgrounds Medical Center, 400 N. 17th Street, Suite 207. As lunch will be provided, reservations are requested. Please call 402-2810 for reservations.

Psychotic Disorders of Late-Life Onset will be presented at 4 p.m. in the Mental Health Clinic. Seating is limited. Please call 402-2265 for reservations.

An Inside Look at Industry's Healthcare Cost Containment Efforts

In an attempt to provide an "eye opening" view at what industry is doing to contain healthcare costs through clinical practice pattern modifications, members of the Board of Trustees and Medical Staff Leadership have invited to the hospital Thomas R. Owens, President and CEO of GMIS Inc., the leading marketer of

cost containment and quality assessment products for the health insurance industry.

This company's customer base of nearly 200 insurance companies includes the major commercial insurers such as AEtna, CIGNA, and Prudential, over 50% of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield organizations nationwide, and leading managed care companies such as U.S. Healthcare. Mr. Owens will discuss how these organizations are planning to address the healthcare crises throughout the 90's.

Mr. Owens' presentation, which will be held on Thursday, October 29, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78, will cover:

- the evolving role of the health insurers;
- current approaches to cost containment;
- future quality assessment and cost containment initiatives;
- the role of outcomes management;
- o provider responses under managed care; and
- the role of data in controlling cost.

An open discussion will be facilitated by John Jaffe, M.D., President, Medical Staff, and Alfred E. Douglass III, member, Board of Trustees.

There is no charge for the presentation; therefore, registration is not required. For more information, contact Janet M. Laudenslager, Coordinator, Physician Office Practice Services, at 402-2780.

Health Promotion Program News

The Health Promotion Program of Lehigh Valley Hospital will present two free public lectures in November. Sponsored by the Chronic Disease Education Committee of Lehigh Valley Hospital, the lectures include:

Sleep Apnea Update will be presented by John P. Galgon, M.D., pulmonologist and sleep disorders specialist, on Wednesday, November 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78.

Sleep Apnea syndrome is a newly found condition which affects 4-30% of patients and is associated with daytime sleepiness, hypertension, heart attack, and stroke. Dr. Galgon will discuss the signs and symptoms of sleep apnea. He will also give an update on the diagnostic procedures and treatment methods currently available.

The ABC's of Hepatitis will be presented by Jeffrey R. Kralstein, M.D., gastroenterologist, on Wednesday, November 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Auditorium of Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78.

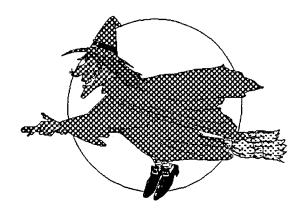
To date, five major types of hepatitis have been identified. Dr. Kralstein will describe the various types, including the newer form "Hepatitis C." Methods of transmission, highrisk populations, immunization and diagnostic procedures will be reviewed. A discussion on potential therapies will conclude the lecture.

In addition to these programs, the Health Promotion Program will again offer a program for healthier food shopping practices.

It's in the Bag: Heart Healthy
Shopping will feature a dietitian who
will lead group tours highlighting
"heart healthy" food choices. This will
include the "new" food groups,
convenience food items, label reading,
and special occasion food selections.

Shopping location for late October and November will be the Giant Food Store at 3015 W. Emaus Avenue in Allentown. Dates and times include Tuesday, October 27, 9:30 to 11 a.m.; Thursday, November 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday, November 10, 9:30 to 11 a.m.; and Thursday, November 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Group size is limited.

The Health Promotion Program also offers numerous other classes and programs for weight control, stress management, and smoking cessation which may benefit your patients. For more information, please call 821-2150.





- * For Sale or Lease -- Medical-Professional Office Building on Cedar Crest Boulevard, just minutes from Cedar Crest & I-78 and 17th & Chew. Plenty of parking. Ideal for physician.
- * For Sale or Lease -- Springhouse Professional Center, 1575 Pond Road. Ideal for physician's office. Approximately 2,500 sq. ft. Will finish space to specifications.
- * For Sale or Lease -- Medicalprofessional office building on South Cedar Crest Boulevard, just minutes from Cedar Crest & I-78 and 17th & Chew. 3,560 total sq. ft. Ample parking, security/fire alarms installed. Ideal for physician group.
- * For Sale -- Professional Office Building on West Broad Street, near the Allentown/Bethlehem border. 4,500 sq. ft. with plenty of parking on corner lot.

- * For Lease -- Slots are currently available for the Brown Bag suite at Kutztown Professional Center.
- * For Lease -- Share large medical office near Cedar Crest & I-78. Fully furnished and staffed. Multiple line phone system. Computerized billing available.
- * For Lease -- Specialty practice timeshare space available in a comprehensive health care facility. Riverside Professional Center, 4019 Wynnewood Drive, Laurys Station. Half- or full-day slots immediately available.
- * For Lease -- Share medical office space at Riverside Professional Center in Laurys Station. Ideal for solo or small group practice.

For more information or for assistance in finding appropriate office space to meet your needs, contact Joe Pilla, POPS Representative, at 402-9647.

WHO'S NEW

The Who's New section of *Medical* Staff Progress Notes contains an update of new appointments, address changes, newly approved privileges, etc.

Please remember that each department or unit is responsible for updating its directory, rolodexes, and approved privilege rosters.

Medical Staff

Additional Privileges

John J. Cassel, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Arthur E. Fetzer, MD

Department of Surgery
Division of Urology
Active
Laparoscopic Endoscopic Privileges

Hugh S. Gallagher, MD Department of Medicine Division of Cardiology Active Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Robert J. Gary, MD
Department of Surgery
Division of Urology
Active
Laparoscopic Endoscopic Privileges

Geoffrey G. Hallock, MD Department of Surgery

Department of Surgery
Division of Plastic Surgery
Active
Endoscopic Carpal Tunnel Release

Bryan W. Kluck, DO
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Richard M. Lieberman, MD
Department of Surgery
Division of Urology
Active
Visual Laser Ablation of the Prostate
(VLAP)

Eric J. Marsh, DMD
Department of Dentistry
Division of General Dentistry
Active
Administer Nitrous Oxide

D. Lynn Morris, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Stephen T. Olex, DO
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Eugene E. Ordway, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Robert J. Oriel, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Aortic Valvuloplasty Privileges
and
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

Jeffrey C. Snyder, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Active
Directional Coronary Atherectomy

David B. Sussman, MD
Department of Surgery
Division of Orthopedic Surgery
Active
Endoscopic Carpal Tunnel Release

Reinstatement of Laser Privileges

Arthur E. Fetzer, MD
Department of Surgery
Division of Urology
Active
(Laser Eye Exam Provided)

Chetan D. Khindri, MD
Department of Surgery
Division of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
Active
(Laser Eye Exam Provided)

George W. McGinley, MD Department of Surgery Division of Ophthalmology Active (Laser Eye Exam Provided)

Change of Department

Frank G. Finch, MD
From Department of Emergency
Medicine
Division of Emergency Medicine
to Department of Medicine
Division of General Internal Medicine
Active

Practice Disassociation and Change of Address

Robert B. Kevitch, MD
(no longer associated with John Altobelli, MD)
842 N. 19th Street
Allentown, PA 18104
(215) 437-1223

Nora A. Suggs, MD

(no longer associated with Surgical Associates of the Lehigh Valley) 1600 Lehigh Parkway, East Allentown, PA 18103 (215) 439-4108 Effective October 15, 1992

Change of Status

Joseph T. Sembrot, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Endocrinology/Metabolism
From Active to Referring

Appointment of Associate Division Chief

Bruce A. Ellsweig, MD Associate Chief Division of Family Practice

John S. Papola, MD
Associate Chief
Division of Otolaryngology

Appointment of Medical Director

David Prager, MD Medical Director 5T & 6C

Resignations

Brian K. Long, MD
Department of Psychiatry

Peter Mucha, Jr., MD
Department of Surgery
Division of General Surgery/Trauma
Section of Surgical Oncology/Critical
Care

Murray D. Robinson, MD Department of Surgery Division of Neurosciences Section of Neurotrauma

Glen H. Tinkoff, MD
Department of Surgery
Division of General Surgery/Trauma.
Section of Surgical Oncology/Critical
Care

Allied Health Professionals

Appointments

Thomas N. Feil, PA
Physician Extender
Physician Assistant
(Panebianco-Yip Heart Surgeons-Yeisley)

Andrea R. Weiner, PA
Physician Extender
Physician Assistant
(Panebianco-Yip Heart Surgeons-Yeisley)

Change of Supervising Physician

Linda S. Duffy, RN
Physician Extender
Professional - RN
(From Mark N. Martz, MD to Cardiovascular
Associates - Pantano)

Resignation

Susan T. Phifer, RN
Physician Extender
Professional - RN
(Gastroenterology Assoc-Ufberg)



CONFIDENTIAL LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL, INC. RISK MANAGEMENT/QUALITY ASSURANCE

EVENT REPORT

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REPORT DATE	EVENT DATE		
EVENT TIME	DEPARTMENT / UNIT INVOLVED)
IDENTIFICATION	SEX		
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CURRENT DIAGNOSIS			
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	L Yes No PM		
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TYPE OF EVENT	LOCATION OF EVENT	NATURE OF INJURY	SEVERITY
☐ Blood Administration	☐ Building/Grounds	☐ Aspiration	☐ Minor
☐ Equipment Related ☐ Fail	Examining/Treatment Room Hailway	Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest Contusion or Abrasion	Moderate Severe
☐ I.V. Related	Laboratory	Damaged Teeth	Death
☐ Medication	☐ Nursing Station	☐ Edema/Swelling	Unknown
Miscellaneous	Occupational Therapy Patient's Bathroom	Fracture or Dislocation	None
Patient Behavior/Psychiatric	☐ Patient's Bathroom ☐ Patient's Room	Laceration Neurological Deficit	
Personal Property Loss	☐ Physical Therapy	☐ Perforation	
Surgical Test/Procedure/Treatment	Radiology Waiting Room	Retained Foreign Body Sprain or Strain	
Specify	☐ Waiting Room ☐ Other:	No Apparent Injury	
Other:		Unknown	
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ORIENTATION (Check Both Columns) Agitated	Malfunction/Name of Equipment Name	☐ Birth Injury ☐ Blood Loss > 500cc	☐ Wrong Drug ☐ Wrong Solution
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ORIENTATION (Check Both Columns) Agitated Alert Confused Sedated	Malfunction/Name of Equipment Name Exp. Date Manufacturer Model No.	Birth Injury Blood Loss > 500cc Complication of Augmented Li Contamination Fourth Degree Laceration	☐ Wrong Drug ☐ Wrong Solution
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ORIENTATION (Check Both Columns) Agitated	Malfunction/Name of Equipment Name Exp. Date Manufacturer Model No. Serial No. Rented/Leased/Borrowed (Circle One) Accessory Disposal Hospital I.D. No. Biomed. Engineering No. Tampered with by Patient/Family Unavailable Other:	Birth Injury Blood Loss > 500cc Complication of Augmented Lac Contamination Fourth Degree Laceration Maternal Death Meconium Aspiration/ Abnormal Staining Neonatal Death Neonatal Seizure Precipitous Delivery Return to Delivery Room Stillbirth Unattended Delivery Unplanned Transfer to NICU Other:	Wrong Drug Wrong Solution Wrong Time Wrong Type Other: PATIENT BEHAVIOR/PSYCHIATRIX Code Orange Commitment Irregularity Contraband Injured Other Person Seclusion Self-inflicted Injury Suicide Attempt Treatment Plan Not Initiated/Completed
ORIENTATION (Check Both Columns) Agitated	Malfunction/Name of Equipment Name Exp. Date Manufacturer Model No. Serial No. Rented/Leased/Borrowed (Circle One) Accessory Disposal Hospital I.D. No. Biomed. Engineering No. Tampered with by Patient/Family Unavailable Other: TEST/PROCEDURE/TREATMENT Admission from Outpatient Unit Cancelled	Birth Injury Blood Loss > 500cc Complication of Augmented Li Contamination Fourth Degree Laceration Maternal Death Meconium Aspiration/ Abnormal Staining Neonatal Death Neonatal Seizure Precipitous Delivery Return to Delivery Room Stillbirth Unattended Delivery Unplanned Transfer to NICU Other:	Wrong Drug Wrong Solution Wrong Time Wrong Type Other: PATIENT BEHAVIOR/PSYCHIATRIX Code Orange Commitment Irregularity Contraband Injured Other Person Seclusion Self-Inflicted Injury Suicide Attempt Treatment Plan Not
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P&T Highlights

The following actions were taken at the September 14, 1992, P & T Committee meeting.

James Giardina, R.Ph., Director, Pharmacy

Formulary Addition Requests Approved

The following medications were approved for addition to the formulary. Because of frequent requests or due to a uniqueness of pharmacologic effect each agent was determined to be a necessary addition to the current formulary. Due to the large number, only limited data is provided. Please consult other references for more information regarding prescribing, side effects, etc.

Generic Name **Brand Name** acebutolol HCI Sectral bepridil Vascor ca osaicin Zostrix HP/Axsain clofazamine Lamprene dapsone econazole Spectazole fluocinonide Lidex E hvoscamine Levsin mesalamine Asacal moricizine Ethmozine nabumetone Relafen propafenone Rythmol

Category
B-adrenergic Blocker
Calcium Channel Blocker
Topical Analgesic Drugs
Leprostatic
Leprostatic
Topical Antifungal
Topical Corticosteroids
Antispasmotic
Miscellaneous GI Agent
Class I antiarrhythmic
NSAID
Class I C antiarrhythmic

Therapeutic Evaluation Requests

Nicotine Transdermal Systems - Currently there are four different brands marketed; two of which are identical (Habitrol and Nicoderm) and two of which differ in strength (Prostep and Nicotrol). The Committee approved that Pharmacy will stock either Habitrol or Nicoderm, which are currently the most popular.

These two brands are generically equivalent and therefore interchangeable. Pharmacy will not carry the other two brands.

Orders for these (Prostep and Nicotrol) will be filled using patient's own supplies or physicians will be requested to change the order to one of the strengths stocked by Pharmacy.

L-Carnitine (Carnitor, Sigma Tau) - a naturally occurring amino acid derivative which is used to treat primary carnitine deficiency and which may have benefit in patients with secondary deficiency due to valproic acid therapy.

The most common side effects are gastrointestinal (41%). These side effects are managed by slow consumption or greater dilution of the liquid. Giving the dose with food may improve tolerance. Drug related body odor occurs in 11% of patients. The usual dose in adults is 1-3Gms daily and in

children is 50-100mg/Kg/day given in 2 or 3 divided doses. (Max 3 Gm/day). Costs are \$0.58/330mg tablet or \$0.16/100mg (1ml) liquid.

Ticlopidine (Ticlid, Syntex) - is a platelet aggregation inhibitor indicated to reduce the risk of thrombotic stroke (fatal or non-fatal) in patients who have experienced stroke precursors and in patients who have had a completed thrombotic stroke.

Ticlopidine acts irreversibly by inhibiting the primary phase of ADP induced platelet aggregation. Ticlopidine is absorbed almost completely (80-90%) with maximum effects seen in 3-5 days. Food enhances bioavailability, while antacids decrease it by 20%.

The most frequent side effects are GI or Rash. Food reduces the GI complaints. The more serious side effects include agranulocytosis, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, jaundice and hepatitis. As a result, CBC's and differential counts are necessary at least every 2 weeks for the first 3 months of therapy. Ticlopidine significantly increases theophylline serum levels. Ticlopidine is given as a 250mg tablet BID with food.

It costs \$1.12/tablet or \$2.25/day; aspirin costs \$0.01/day.

Converting Famotidine IV to PO

The Committee approved that Prescribers be requested to change IV Famotidine to PO for patients who are receiving ≥ two scheduled oral medications.

A random review showed that 50% of patients on Famotidine IV were receiving at least two oral scheduled medications. The literature is very

clear that Famotidine is no more effective when given IV versus orally, yet Famotidine injection twofold the price of the same strength tablet.

When coupled with the labor involved in preparing and giving it as an injection, the savings to patients and the hospital can become considerable.

Drug Use Evaluation -Precious Time

An evaluation of turnaround time for Alteplase (tPA) was accepted by the Committee. Ten random cases were reviewed. The evaluation was limited due to the fact that most orders were not timed when written. Therefore, turnaround time was defined as the time from pharmacy receipt of an order to dispensing of the final product.

Time from order receipt (verbal or written) to dispensing by Pharmacy remained < 10 minutes. (This represented $\le 50\%$ of total time from order receipt to administration of bolus dose.)

The Dope on Dopamine

Following a review of actual use and the literature, Pharmacy and Nursing recommended that dopamine concentrations for renal perfusion on Med/Surg patients be changed from 200mg/250ml to 400mg/250ml. No other changes were made to the policy.

Preprinted Orders

The Committee approved a set of post-op orders for the Pain Management Service. Once printed by Standard Register, they will be available through the usual mechanism.

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Medical Staff Progress Notes is published monthly to inform the Lehigh Valley Hospital Medical Staff and employees of important issues concerning the Medical Staff. Articles should be submitted to Janet M. Laudenslager, Coordinator, Physician Office Practice Services, 17th & Chew, by the first of each month. If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please call Ms. Laudenslager at 402-2780.