

Medical Staff Progress Notes

June

1997
Volume 9
Number 6



From the President

N Is our destiny and our way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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In June, the Medical Executive Committee will continue its discussion of physician and hospital alignment issues. This topic was brought forth by the members of the committee so that physicians could openly air their expectations and concerns about their relationship with our institution. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts with members of the Medical Executive Committee so that we can have as far reaching and fruitful a discussion as possible.

Speaking of the Medical Executive Committee, June 30, 1997, marks the end of the three-year terms of four of our at-large members: Richard Boorse, Paul Guillard, James Jaffe, and Jay Kaufman. I would publicly like to thank Rich, Paul, Jim, and Jay for all the time they spent, all their contributions, and all the help they provided during the past 36 months.

As a staff, we will have the opportunity to elect four new members at our next Quarterly meeting of the Medical Staff,

which will be held on Monday, June 9, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Finally, as I have explained previously in *Medical Staff Progress Notes*, the Medical Executive Committee, acting in behalf of the members of our staff, has adopted a policy which provides a guideline for the assessment of the infectious disease status of each member during the biennial reappointment process. I believe this document provides an excellent example of how we physicians recognize that it is our responsibility to both care for ourselves and protect our patients. Further, this document unifies both independent practicing physicians and the members of LVPG under a single standard of wellness. At the same time, since this document is a guideline only, personal integrity and confidentiality can be maintained. Hopefully, everyone would have had a chance to familiarize themselves with these guidelines during recent Departmental and Divisional meetings prior to our next Quarterly Medical Staff meeting. Although this action required no changes to the Medical Staff Bylaws, we will have the opportunity to discuss this policy on June 9.

I look forward to our meeting.

Robert X. Murphy, Jr., MD
President, Medical Staff

Chief of Trauma Spearheads Development of National Trauma Guidelines

Michael D. Pasquale, MD, Chief, Division of Trauma/Surgical Critical Care, is leading a national group of surgeons in the development of national guidelines for trauma care.

An ad hoc committee of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) -- an organization chaired by Dr. Pasquale -- is developing the "Practice Management Guidelines for Trauma." The committee, which Dr. Pasquale also heads, has completed the first four guidelines and plans to complete six additional guidelines by January, 1998.

The committee is a national volunteer effort that also includes **Mark D. Cipolle, MD**, Associate Chief, Division of Trauma/Surgical Critical Care, and **James G. Cushman, MD**, Chief, Section of Pediatric Trauma.

According to Dr. Pasquale, the guidelines are intended to improve the quality of trauma care, decrease unnecessary variations in trauma practices, serve as educational tools, guide future research, and improve cost efficiency.

"We began this effort two years ago to improve the overall quality of care, and we're using evidence-based research to make sure we had the best available data," Dr. Pasquale said. "By decreasing unnecessary variations in trauma care, we also avoid unnecessary medical costs."

The first four trauma guidelines are:

- Management of blunt cardiac injury

- Identification of cervical spine injuries
- Management of penetrating colon injuries
- Screening and treatment of venothromboembolic disorder (blood clots in the leg that threaten to go to the lungs).

These first four guidelines were presented at the American Trauma Society's National Trauma Conference held in Washington, DC, May 1-3, and have been submitted for publication to the *Journal of Trauma*.

In 1980, Lehigh Valley Hospital developed Pennsylvania's first Level 1 Trauma Center -- which offers the highest level of trauma care. Currently, it is one of only four Level 1 centers in the state with added qualifications in pediatric trauma care and has a Burn Center. Lehigh Valley Hospital continues to operate the Lehigh Valley's only Level 1 regional trauma center serving a six-county area with 1.6 million people. In 1996, the Trauma Center cared for more than 2,000 patients.

ATTENTION: PHYSICIANS
The 1997 Graduate Medical Education Graduation Celebration will be held on Friday, June 13, beginning with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Fogelsville. If you have not yet received your invitation, please contact Gail Pitsko in the Center for Education at 402-5226.

VRE Policy Refinements

The Infection Control Department will institute changes in the VRE isolation policy at LVHHN beginning June 2, 1997. The refinements to the policy are aimed at enhancing patient care by emphasizing and targeting proven measures with the highest yield to prevent the spread of infection.

Patients with VRE will be placed in a PRIVATE ROOM on CONTACT ISOLATION ONLY if they meet the following criteria:

- Patient has an OPEN, DRAINING WOUND
- Patient is INCONTINENT OF URINE OR FECES
- Patient has DIARRHEA

Patients readmitted with a history of VRE will only be placed in a private room on Contact Isolation if they meet the above criteria.

NO room changes or delays in admissions will be made in the early morning or late evening to accommodate isolation.

Patient's medical condition always takes PRECEDENCE over isolation placement.

Patients with VRE who are NOT assigned to a private room will be on Standard Precautions. Compliance with Standard Precautions will be strictly enforced and monitored. This includes glove use for ALL patient contacts and handwashing before and after contact with the patient (even when gloves are worn).

Educational brochures are available for the health care workers, patients and families, and the admitting department.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the policy refinements, please contact Infection Control at 402-0680.

Call for Educational Programs

What do you want to learn more about? What do you want to teach others? What are the burning issues in health care you would like to discuss with your peers? We want to hear from you. And we want to respond with high quality, first rate programming for you and your staff.

Planning for Lehigh Valley Hospital's **Regional Symposium Series IX Calendar of Continuing Education Programs** (September, 1997 to June, 1998) is underway. As you may know, the purpose of the series is to provide key information on technology and new diagnostic and treatment techniques to the health care professionals of the region. The target audience for our programs is physicians, nurses and other allied health care professionals, faculty and students in the PennCARESM service area.

Appropriate programs may also be opened to a wider regional or national audience.

You are invited to participate in Series IX by requesting/suggesting programs, being an audience member, or by serving as a program director. The Center for Educational Development and Support will work with you to plan a program that meets the educational needs of physicians, nurses and health care professionals in the community we serve.

To give your programming suggestions or for more information about hosting a program, please e-mail or call Gail Pitsko in the Center for Educational Development and Support at (610) 402-5226 by June 30.

Ordering Outpatient Services

As insurance companies begin to compare hospital and physician claims for similar information prior to payment based on appropriateness and medical necessity, hospital coders and physician office coders must work more closely together to ensure that the ICD 9 CM and CPT codes assigned by each match.

In order to meet external requirements, hospital registration personnel have been placing phone calls to physician offices to clarify diagnosis or symptoms for outpatient services ordered. In order to decrease these phone calls and continue to meet requirements, we are asking all physicians to assist us by providing ICD 9 codes, if available, or complete diagnosis and symptoms on all outpatient orders. The following information related to outpatient coding is followed by LVH Medical Record coders and should be used as a guide for the information required from physicians when ordering outpatient services.

According to the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Coding Clinic, 4th Quarter, 1995, guidelines for reporting of inconclusive diagnosis, e.g. rule outs, suspected, probable, were developed for the use within the inpatient setting and are not applicable for outpatient/physician office setting. As an example, "rule out fracture" is not acceptable without "leg pain" listed as the symptom. A diagnosis of "leg pain, rule out fracture," can be coded as a fracture if the x-ray is positive or as leg pain if negative. "Urinary frequency, rule out UTI" can be coded as a UTI if UA is positive or coded as urinary frequency if UTI is ruled out. The following additional

AHA's guidelines which govern coding practice within the outpatient and physician office setting are:

- Coders should derive ICD 9 CM codes for outpatient encounters. The ICD 9 CM code range for outpatient encounters includes diagnoses, symptoms, conditions, problems, complaints, or other reasons for the visit. Signs/symptoms codes are applicable when a diagnosis has not been confirmed.
- Code conditions described as probable, suspected, rule out, questionable or working diagnoses are not acceptable within the outpatient setting. Code to the highest degree what has been established for the encounter; signs, symptoms, abnormal test results, etc., are acceptable.
- Chronic diseases should be provided each time the patient receives treatment and care for the condition, i.e., Coumadin test, therapy for CHF/SOB.
- When ambulatory surgery is performed, the reason for the surgery is required, i.e. Cholecystitis, abdominal pain/for laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

Your cooperation in providing the required information when ordering outpatient services is greatly appreciated as we work together to meet external requirements. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Arlene Lampart, Manager, Medical Records Technical Area, at 402-5035.

Friends of Nursing Honors LVHHN Staff

More than 60 Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network employees received Friends of Nursing awards at the annual nursing gala on May 1. The awards are given yearly to recognize and reward excellence in patient care, research, education and administration. In addition to honoring nurses, Friends of Nursing has expanded to recognize all patient care team members.

Candidates for Friends of Nursing awards are nominated by their colleagues, patients or their family members. A panel of peers and a community member selects recipients based on a nomination statement, two letters of support and a personal interview.

Friends of Nursing is a philanthropic foundation established in 1984 to enhance the image of nursing, and to recognize and promote excellence in nursing practice, education and research. All Friends of Nursing awards are donated by patients and families, community members, nurses, physicians and other health care professionals. To enhance these contributions, the nursing staff sponsors fund-raising activities throughout the year.

Following are the 1997 awards and winners:

- Lehigh Valley Physician Group Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Ambulatory Care - Pamela Prisaznik, Outpatient Pediatrics
- The Plastic Surgeons Professional Group, Inc. Award for Excellence in Burn or Plastic Surgery Nursing - Lois Douglas, Burn Center
- Award for Excellence in Cancer Nursing - Lori Barrell, Cancer Program
- Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Wartell Cardiovascular Nursing Awards - Patricia Frey, Progressive Coronary Care Unit
- Mr. and Mrs. Abram Samuels Cardiovascular Nursing Awards - Karen Deutsch, 7C, and Vicki Whitehead, Open Heart Unit
- Mr. and Mrs. Abram Samuels Awards for Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing - Rosalie Boucher and Barbara Grosch, NICU
- Michael L. Holben Award for Excellence in the Care of Dialysis Patients - Tina Wessner, Hemodialysis
- William F. Ihrle, Jr. and Elizabeth A. Ihrle Digestive Sciences Award - Cheryl Gumulak, GI/Endoscopy Lab
- Nancy Stevens Emergency Nursing Award - Barry Mitchneck, Emergency Department
- Barbara and Joseph Salvatore Excellence in Family Practice Nursing Award - Jennifer Smetana, Lehigh Valley Family Practice Center
- Joseph and Judith Kaminski Award for Excellence as a Float Nurse - Terua Erdman, Float Pool
- Alma W. Holland Award for Excellence in Home Care Nursing - Cindy Payonk, Home Care
- Lehigh Valley Hospice Nursing Award - Margaret Anzel, Hospice
- Pulmonary Associates Award for Excellence in Intensive Care Nursing - Marilyn Leshko, Medical/Surgical Intensive Care Unit
- Dr. and Mrs. Donald H. Gaylor Medical-Surgical Nursing Award - Judith Young, 7B
- Mental Health Technician Award - Donna B-Gale, 6N
- The David A. Tilly, M.D. Award for Excellence in Neuroscience Nursing - Lisa Boyle, 6B, and Linda Kramer, Central Nervous System Unit
- The Jeffrey J. Hitchings Award for Excellence in Nursing Education - Gwendolyn Rosser, Organizational Development
- Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller OB/GYN Nursing Award - Loretta Becker, Mother-Baby Unit

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- Lehigh Valley Orthopedics Award for Excellence in Orthopedic Nursing - Barbara Larsen, 5C
- M.G. Asnani, M.D. Award for Excellence in Pediatric Nursing - Marie Popp, Pediatrics
- Dr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Prorok Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing - Robert Kern, Operating Room
- Allentown Anesthesia Associates, Inc. Post-Anesthesia Care Nursing Award - Catherine Ehrig, Post-Anesthesia Care Unit
- Trauma Team Member (Non-R.N.) Award - James Benco, Transitional Trauma Unit
- Professional Trauma Nurse Awards - Ann Fetho, Central Nervous System Unit; Tracie Merkle, Transitional Trauma Unit; and Elizabeth Seislove, Shock Trauma Unit
- Psychiatric Nursing Award - Shirley Giansante, Home Care
- The Gina and Craig Reckard Award for Excellence in Renal Transplant Nursing - Linda Petrine, Renal Transplant Services
- Dr. Gary and Dorothy Nicholas Award for Excellence in Vascular Nursing - Karen Boutron, 4C
- The Medical Staff Administrative Partner/Unit Clerk Awards - Margaret McCain, 7B, and Charleen McElroy, Outpatient Pediatrics
- Janine Fiesta Ancillary Services Team Member Award - David Gessner, Respiratory Therapy
- Fleming Community Service Award - Nancy Eckert, Neuroscience Center
- Helen Potts--Licensed Practical Nurse Awards - Nancy Hamilton, Hospice
- The Medical Staff--Licensed Practical Nurse Award - Joan Kulp, Burn Center
- Fleming Nursing Caring Awards - Loretta Gogel, Pediatrics; Lu Ann McKee, 6C, and Mary Ann Yonney, Radiation Oncology
- Fleming Nursing Innovation Award - Mary Saylor, Pediatrics
- Kinneman Leadership Award - Nadesa Mack, Home Care
- Fleming Nursing Performance Improvement Award - Maryann Godshall and Ellen Warmkessel, Pediatrics
- Medical Staff Nursing Practice Awards - Rita Bendekovits, Home Care; Patricia Morren, Progressive Coronary Care Unit and Andrea Tewari, Acute Coronary Care Unit
- Rose Trexler Award for Outstanding Nurse Preceptor - Nicole Reimer, 6C
- Nursing Research Award - Wendy Robb, Trauma Research
- The Medical Staff Patient Care Services Team Member Award - Stephanie Mascavage, Home Care
- The Board of Associates Patient Centered Care Team Award - Team 4, 6C
- Josephine Ritz Award for Excellence in Patient and Family Teaching - Monica Melo, Hospice
- The Medical Staff Support Partner Awards - George Brucker, 6B; Awilda Silver, 6C, and Frank Zeiger, Pediatrics
- The Medical Staff Technical Partner Awards (Non-L.P.N.)/Nursing Assistant/Nursing Technical Assistant/Medical Assistant Awards - Pamela Owensby, 6B, and Gael Sterner, Pediatrics
- Professional Nurse Council Technical Partner (Non-L.P.N.)/Nursing Assistant/Nursing Technical Assistant/Medical Assistant Awards - Beverly Rauch and Jean Reinhart, Home Care
- The Senior Management Council Patient Satisfaction Award - Acute Coronary Care Unit

Autopsy Notation Request
In most cases, in the event of a patient's death, the attending physician will ask the patient's family if they wish to have an autopsy performed. Chart documentation such as "Autopsy requested - Family declined/ or refused" or "Autopsy requested - request granted/ or permission obtained" is extremely helpful in order to compile accurate statistical data. Documentation such as "No Autopsy" is inconclusive for reporting purposes. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

SportsFest Volunteers Needed

During the weekend of July 12-13, the City of Allentown will host the first annual SportsFest weekend. SportsFest is a two-day festival with over 20 different competitions, tournaments, and exhibitions of sports including softball, baseball, basketball, soccer, golf, running, cycling, canoeing, volleyball, boxing, martial arts, tennis, handball, archery, and horseshoes, plus food, music, and other entertainment.

All events will be held in, and showcase, the Allentown Parks System. With the potential for over 5,000 competitors and spectators, this stands to be an exciting weekend of competition. Since this is a community-based program, volunteers are needed in all of the competition areas as well as in administration and other areas. This offers a great

opportunity to see to level athletic competition, enjoy the beautiful parks, and serve your community as well.

In addition to the many staff members who have already signed up to volunteer at the two-day event, Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network is showing its support of SportsFest by being an All Sports Sponsor.

Both sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are still available for SportsFest. To learn more about the SportsFest weekend, Sponsorship/ Volunteer opportunities, or how to register for an event, contact Rob Behler, Quality Assurance Manager, Revenue Cycle Department, at 402-9421 days, or 868-0760 evenings.

Library News

OVID Training

To schedule a one-on-one OVID training session, please call Barbara Iobst in the Health Sciences Library at 402-8408.

Library Book Order

The Health Sciences Library is preparing its fiscal year-end book order and is seeking input from the Medical Staff. Please e-mail Barbara Iobst, Director of Library Services, with your recommendations. She may be reached at 402-8408.

New Additions

New books recently added to the library at Cedar Crest & I-78 include:

Clinical Management of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, 2nd edition.

Author: Peter Schur

Call No. WR 152 C641 1996

Mastery of Surgery, 3rd edition.

Author: Lloyd Nyhus, et al.

Call No. WO 100 M423 1996 (Reference)

Principles and Practice of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

Author: Sarah Long, et al.

Call No. WC 100 P9575 1997

Sobotta Atlas of Human Anatomy, 12th edition.

Author: Sobotta, Johanne

Call No. QS 17 A88125 1996

New books recently added to the library at 17th & Chew include:

The American Psychiatric Press Synopsis of Psychiatry.

Author: Robert Hales, et al.

Call No. WM 100 S9935 1996

Clinical Skills for Adult Primary Care.

Author: Mark Silverman, et al.

Call No. WB 200 C6412 1995

Infectious Diseases of the Female Genital Tract, 3rd edition.

Author: Richard Sweet, et al.

Call No. WP 140 S974i

Neonatology: A Practical Guide, 4th edition.

Author: Alistair Philip

Call No. WS 420 P549n 1996

Congratulations!

Thomas D. Meade, MD, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, has accepted the invitation from the Ambassadors, Allentown's new professional baseball team, to serve as their team orthopedic surgeon. The Ambassadors' 83 game schedule runs from May 30 through August 31. Home games will be played at Bicentennial Park.

Patrick B. Respet, MD, Chief, Section of Ortho Trauma, has been elected President of the American Fracture Association for 1997-1999.

The oldest organization of its type at over 60 years old, the American Fracture Society consists of both national and international participants with primary interest in the treatment of fractures.

The Board of Directors of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians has announced the election of **William E. Zajdel, DO**, as a Fellow in the College. Dr. Zajdel, a member of the Department of Emergency Medicine, has achieved and maintained numerous requirements to be considered for this honorary title.

Papers, Publications and Presentations

Peter A. Keblish, MD, Chief, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, was a member of the faculty at the Annual Harvard Knee Symposium in Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Keblish spoke on several knee topics regarding the patella, unicompartment knee replacement, results of mobile bearing knee arthroplasty, and management of the patella in total knee replacement. He also participated in symposium topics and specific discussions regarding all aspects of knee replacement. The Harvard Knee Course is attended by national and international surgeons and covers all aspects of pre-operative, operative, and post-operative problems encountered in the subject.

Thomas M. McLoughlin, Jr., MD, Chief, Division of Cardiac Anesthesia, authored a review paper, "The Patient with a Coagulation Disorder," which was published in the May, 1997 issue of *Problems in Anesthesia*.

In addition, Dr. McLoughlin agreed to serve as series editor for "Requisites in Anesthesia," a series of 5-8 hardbound volumes, each comprehensively covering the material important to the practice of a subspecialty of anesthesiology (e.g., cardiothoracic anesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, pain management, etc.). The series will be published by Mosby, Inc., and produced over the next 3-5 years.

Daniel E. Muser, MD, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, recently presented a poster exhibit, "Mini Open Deltoid Sparing Approach for Rotator Cuff Repair," at the 64th annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons held in San Francisco, Calif.

Medical Staff Trivia

Of the 812 members of the Medical Staff, 114 or 14% of them are women.

Upcoming Seminars, Conferences and Meetings

Medical Grand Rounds

Medical Grand Rounds are held every Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m., in the hospital's Auditorium at Cedar Crest & I-78.

Topics to be discussed in June include:

June 3 - Pulmonary

June 10 - Cardiology

For more information, please contact Becky Sherman in the Department of Medicine at 402-8200.

Department of Pediatrics

A Presentation of a Profoundly Deaf Child Who Had a Cochlear Implant at Age 4 1/2 and is Now 10 Years Old and Attending Regular Classes will be held on Friday, June 13.

Amanda Mangiardi, Hearing Therapist, along with the patient, the patient's mother, and cochlear implant representatives will participate in this program.

Update on Fluoride Use in Dental Prophylaxis will be presented by Eric J. Marsh, DMD, Chairperson, Department of Dentistry, and Hugh J. O'Donnell, Jr., DDS, Chief, Division of Pedodontics, on Friday, June 27. If you have any questions concerning fluoride for discussion, please bring them to this meeting.

The above conferences will be held at noon in the hospital's Auditorium at 17th & Chew. For more information, contact Kelli Ripperger in the Department of Pediatrics at 402-2540.

Who's New

The Who's New section of ***Medical Staff Progress Notes*** contains an update of new appointments, address changes, status changes, etc. Please remember to update your directory and rolodexes with this information.

Medical Staff

Status Change

Norman S. Sarachek, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
From Active to Honorary

Appointment to Medical Staff Leadership Position

Mark D. Cipolle, MD
Chief, Section of Trauma Research

Practice Name Change

The practice name for Louis W. Hansrote, MD, and Mark B. Farin, MD has been changed to
Children's Heart Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Practice Merger

Effective May 1, the physicians of Cardiology Care Specialists and Cardiovascular Associates have merged their respective practices. The name of the new merged physician group is **The Heart Care Group, PC**. Current locations and telephone numbers will remain intact as follows:

3340 Hamilton Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18103-4598
(610) 433-6442
FAX: (610) 776-6645

Luis Constantin, MD
Raymond A. Durkin, MD
Bruce A. Feldman, DO
David B. Goldner, MD
J. Patrick Kleaveland, MD
D. Lynn Morris, MD
Michael A. Rossi, MD
Melvin H. Schwartz, MD
Bruce J. Silverberg, MD
Steven L. Zelenkofske, DO

1210 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Suite 2300
Allentown, PA 18103-6286
(610) 437-5505
FAX: (610) 437-5763
Donald J. Belmont, MD
Hugh S. Gallagher, MD
Paul Gulotta, MD
Bryan W. Kluck, DO
Norman H. Marcus, MD
Stephen T. Olex, DO
Robert J. Oriel, MD
James A. Pantano, MD
Gerald E. Pytlewski, DO
James A. Sandberg, MD

Allied Health Professionals

Appointments

Mary Gail Smith, RN
Physician Extender
Professional
RN
(InterValley Cardiology - Dr. Ordway)

Barry M. Tice, PA-C
Physician Extender
Physician Assistant
PA-C
(Sam Bub, MD)

Resignation

Ronald J. Esteve, PhD
Associate Scientific
Psychologist

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HOSPITAL

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P.O. Box 689
Allentown, PA 18105-1556

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- Susan D. Wiley, M.D.

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. Seifert, Physician
Relations, Lehigh Valley
Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78,
P.O. Box 689, Allentown, PA
18105-1556, by the 15th of
each month. If you have any
questions about the
newsletter, please call Mrs.
Seifert at 402-8590.
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