Clinical Excellence Community
April 29, 2015

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Announcements

Attend a CEO Forum to learn more about EHC’s exciting future
The CEO Forums are a great opportunity to meet new President and CEO Mike Mandl, learn more about the WellStar initiative and EHC’s exciting future plans, and ask questions. Upcoming dates below:

- **Wednesday, April 29th @ 3:00** – EUOSH, Third Floor Conference Room
- **Sunday, May 3rd @ 5:00** – EUH Auditorium. Will also be broadcasted to: EJCH, Physicians Plaza, Suite 109; ESJH, Auditorium; EUHM, Glenn Auditorium; EUOSH, Third Floor Classroom; EWWH, AV Conference Room and available as a webcast at [http://emory.adobeconnect.com/CEOforum](http://emory.adobeconnect.com/CEOforum)
- **Tuesday, May 5th @ 12:15** – ERH, Room 101

Department of Medicine Faculty Awards
Do you know an outstanding clinician? Nominate them for the Outstanding Clinician Award or the Nanette K. Wenger Distinguished Service Award! Award details, eligibility and required nomination materials for all Department of Medicine awards can be on the Faculty Development website. **Deadline for submission is May 6th.**

Looking for more service opportunities?
The University Senate Committee is looking for interested faculty to apply for a number of service committees. If you wish to serve on a committee during the upcoming academic year please send your CV and a brief statement of interest to Senate Assistant Jordan Stewart-Rozema by April 30th. [Read more...](#)

Submit an announcement to be featured in the newsletter

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Congratulatory Corner!

*Community members are starred

Congrats to The Emory Clinic physicians that placed in the top 10% for patient satisfaction in Q2 of FY15!

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Do you have someone you’d like to recognize for their clinical achievements? [Let us know!](#)

Recent Publications from Clinical Excellence Community Members

*Community members are bolded

- [Submit an announcement to be featured in the newsletter](#)

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Impact of universal gowns and gloves on health care worker clothing contamination.

Quality Improvement Corner: Highlighting QI Projects Across the Department

At the April meeting of the Dept. of Medicine Quality Council, Dr. Jason Higdon of GIM/Geriatrics presented the work of the PCPC (Patient Centered Primary Care), an NCQA-certified medical home at 1525 Clifton Rd., on population health management and the management of patients with complex health issues. The PCPC has developed standard care protocols for common chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. Using disease registry reports from the data warehouse, the team at the clinic is able to reach out to patients in need of specific follow up and to plan for upcoming visits. Through this approach, gaps in care are better able to be closed when patients visit the practice. A future need is to expand on the care protocols within the practice to coordinate standard approaches to coordinated management between the primary care practice and consulting specialists. Dr. Higdon also showed the practice’s approach to chronic care management for a group of patients identified as at high risk for hospitalization. These patients are tracked to identify those overdue for follow up. A nurse calls the patient in advance of an upcoming visit to review medications, problems, functional limitations, goals, barriers, and self-management plans. A note from this call is available to the physician at the visit. Post-visit follow up calls ensure that the plans made at the visit are being effectively carried out. While this care management approach is more intensive than usual care, it is a strategy that may be effective at lowering complications for patients at highest risk.

Clinical Documentation Tip

How does clinical documentation impact reimbursement?

Hospitals are reimbursed according to the “relative weight” of the diagnosis-related group (DRG) of the patient.

Each hospital has a base rate (dollar amount per DRG) assigned to each facility based on a blend of uninsured patients, facility location, teaching vs. nonteaching, etc.
Each DRG is assigned a relative weight (RW) that encompasses the severity and resource consumption associated with that DRG. This is determined by the major complications / comorbitidities (MCCs) and simple complications/comorbitidities (CCs) associated with the patient. The MCCs and CCs must be documented – these cannot be inferred from vital signs, lab values, radiology results, or treatments.

The facility base rate is multiplied by the DRG’s relative weight to determine Medicare payment:

\[ \text{DRG RW} \times \text{hospital base rate} = \text{Medicare payment} \]

Therefore, the higher the relative weight of the DRG, the greater the reimbursement the hospital receives.

For example, in the case of a patient admitted with heart failure:

Documented: “Acute on chronic systolic HF”

\[ \text{RW} = 0.6853, \text{facility base rate} = $5000 \]

The hospital is reimbursed $3426.50.

But now look:

Documented: Acute on chronic systolic HF WITH hyponatremia (a CC):

\[ \text{RW becomes 0.9938, facility base rate} = $5000, \text{the hospital now is reimbursed} \ 4969 \text{for that same visit.} \]

And if there is an MCC that is well documented (example: Stage III pressure ulcer), the RW becomes 1.50, and the hospital is reimbursed $7471.50!

By the way, this also impacts “Case Mix Index” – the average diagnosis-related weight of all of a hospital's Medicare volume. In addition to accurate reimbursement, good clinical documentation also demonstrates the
medical complexity of the patients you take care of!

Happy writing it right!
CoLette Morgan, MD, FHM
Division of Hospital Medicine

Submit a documentation question

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**Events & Educational Opportunities**

**April 30: SoTL 101: An Introduction to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**
This workshop will provide an overview of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), including why SoTL projects are important and how to get started.
Jones Room, Woodruff Library. 12:00-1:30 pm | Register

**May 12: Welcome Reception for Dan Hunt, MD**
Join David S. Stephens, MD in welcoming Dan Hunt, MD to the position of Division Director – Hospital Medicine.
School of Medicine Lobby. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | RSVP

**May 12: Getting Maintenance of Certification Credit for your Quality Improvement Activities – What’s New and What Isn’t?”**
The Faculty Development Lecture Series, presented throughout the year by senior faculty within the School of Medicine, covers practical topics aimed at assisting faculty in their career development. New maintenance of certification guidelines include carrying out a quality project. Learn what that entails and how to get started.
SOM 178P. 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Link to view remotely | Questions? | Read more...

**May 22: Nontraditional Scholarship for the Busy Clinician**
Dr. Dan Hunt, Director of Hospital Medicine, will speak at the Division of Hospital Medicine Grand Rounds.
Faculty from all divisions and sites are invited to attend. Grand Rounds will take place in the EUHM Glenn Auditorium and be broadcast to EUH Main Auditorium, Grady FOB 108, VAMC 6th Floor Corner Conf. Room, EJCH Meeting Room 3 and the ESJH Auditorium.
EUHM Glenn Auditorium. 12:30 PM | Link to view remotely

**May 29: Advancing Healthcare Quality Research at Emory**
Join us for this day-long quality forum and networking opportunity for Emory University researchers to learn about ongoing quality, effectiveness and value-based research activities within the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. The event will take place May 29th in the HSRB Auditorium and is sponsored by the Department of Medicine. Register | Read more...

**June 4: DOM CV Review Session**
The CV Review Session will have representatives from the DOM Faculty Development Promotion and Tenure Sub-Committee who will offer advice on ways to enhance your preparation for future promotion to Associate Professor or Professor. Assistant Professors and Associate Professors to take advantage of this session; however registration will be open to other ranks as well. Register by May 15th.

Submit an event to be featured here

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Questions or comments?

What would YOU like to see in this newsletter? What can the Clinical Excellence Community do for you?
Submit your feedback!

Are you looking for somebody to collaborate with? Are you looking for a junior faculty member to help with a project, or a senior faculty member to help mentor you? Submit your needs to have a listing in our next newsletter.

Education Community  |  Research Community