Clinical Excellence Community
June 26, 2015

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Announcements

**What can the Clinical Excellence Community do for you?**
We are very interested in knowing what you would like to see from the Clinical Excellence Community. We would be grateful if you can complete a very brief (2-3 minute) survey to provide us your feedback. Thank you for your participation!

**EHC Patient Safety and Teamwork Culture Survey**
Only a couple more days to complete the quality survey that will help improve safety and teamwork in clinical environments. Links to the survey are individual-specific; to find your link search your email for a message from “EHC Service Performance” or subject “Share your feedback in the Patient Safety & Teamwork Survey”. If you can’t find your link, please email serviceperformance@emoryhealthcare.org.

**SOM Staff Above and Beyond Award**
The Above and Beyond award is to recognize and honor staff within the SOM who, through their exceptional performance, demonstrate outstanding acts of character, including integrity, passion, teamwork, productivity, and cultural diversity. The award winner(s) will have consistently distinguished themselves above and beyond position requirements in service that positively impacts the SOM, their Department, and/or the University. Eligibility and nomination form. Deadline: July 10.

**Qualitative Research Training Workshops**
The RSPH is hosting a series of workshops for professionals to develop skills in qualitative research and data analysis. Additional information and registration details can be found here. Please contact Khaleelah Muwwakkil at kmuwwak@emory.edu or 404-727-3152 with any questions.

Submit an announcement to be featured in the newsletter

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Congratulatory Corner!

**Congratulations to the Department of Medicine faculty clinical excellence and service award winners!**

**Outstanding Clinician:**
James Spivey (Digestive Diseases)

**Nanette K. Wenger Distinguished Service Award:**
Julie Hollberg (Hospital Medicine)
Vasilis Babaliaros (Cardiology)
Henry Blumberg (Infectious Diseases)

**Shanthi V. Sitaraman Silver Pear Mentorship, Clinical:**
Tanveer Rab (Cardiology)

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Congratulations to Dr. David Murphy, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Quality Achievement Award. His nomination letter stated, 'He has led a number of impactful initiatives and takes a scholarly approach to improving care. One body of work has been on "rationalizing" testing and treatment, specifically chest x-rays, ABG's, RBC transfusions and albumin use. In aggregate, this work has saved over $4 million dollars while health outcomes in the ICU's have held steady or improved.'

Clinical Documentation Tip

Medical Terminology vs. Coding Terminology

Over the next few months, we'll take a look at diagnoses that are frequently used in clinical settings, but due to discrepancies between medical terminology and coding terminology, are often down-coded. While this can be frustrating to clinicians, being aware of these discrepancies can help improve your documentation and therefore more accurately reflect the severity of illness of the patients you're seeing.

Hypertension

Clinically, we use terms “hypertensive emergency” to describe a patient with severely elevated blood pressures that are causing acute end-organ damage, and “severe hypertension” or “uncontrolled hypertension” (or sometimes, “hypertensive urgency”) to describe severely elevated blood pressures that are not causing acute end organ damage. Unfortunately, these terms are not used in coding and therefore ALL code to the same generic code, 401.9 Hypertension NOS.

The following terms ARE used as coding terminologies and increase the severity of illness:
- Accelerated Hypertension: An SBP over 160 and/or DBP over 95 on multiple occasions, and is difficult to control despite the patient being on multiple medications.
- Malignant Hypertension: A rapid rise in BP with signs and symptoms of end organ involvement.

To accurately reflect to clinicians AND coders the severity of illness of your patient, try the following:
- For a patient with severely elevated blood pressure without progressive target organ dysfunction: “Severe / uncontrolled hypertension secondary to accelerated hypertension”
- For a patient with a true hypertensive emergency: ”Malignant hypertension causing hypertensive emergency”

Making these few changes can improve your clinical documentation and more accurately reflect to coders the level of care that you’re providing.

Happy writing it right!

CoLette Morgan, MD, FHM
Division of Hospital Medicine
Events & Educational Opportunities

August 15: 9th Annual Women and Heart Disease
Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital is sponsoring this CME/CE activity providing the latest evidence-based information on evolving concepts and new therapies. August 15, 7:00-1:15 PM | Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort | Early registration ends July 21 | Read More

August 29: Community Movie Night
Join members from all three Communities for a family friendly movie night on the Clairmont Campus. Help pick the movie!

October 1: Clinical Skills Workshop
Save the date for this half day workshop aimed at improving clinical examination skills of faculty and the teaching of those clinical skills to trainees. More details coming soon!

Submit an event to be featured here

Follow us!

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