

# VITALS

## House Staff News



Good Health. Generation to Generation.

**March-April 2010**

### **WHO'S IN CHARGE? POWER OF ATTORNEY VERSUS LEGAL GUARDIAN**

Recently there has been some confusion about the difference between power of attorney (or durable power of attorney for healthcare; POA) and legal court-appointed guardianship. There is an important distinction which is especially critical to understand when seeking informed consent.

A competent individual may designate someone to act as their POA in the event they became incapacitated. If a patient needs an appendectomy and he is alert and oriented, then the patient himself must consent. If however the patient is too sick to be capable of giving consent, then their designee who has POA acts on their behalf.

On the other hand, an individual may be unable to independently make decisions and, as such, a legal guardian is appointed by the courts. Examples include an elderly woman with Alzheimer's dementia whose daughter has petitioned for guardianship or a group home patient with no family who has a court-appointed guardian. Another example would be a minor child, whose parent (or an appointed individual) is their legal guardian. In each of these cases, the legal decision maker is not the patient, it is the guardian. Thus, the guardian is the individual who must give consent and who also has the final say. Consider that a child who needs an appendectomy may object to surgery but if her parent gives consent, the surgery proceeds. The same is true with other guardian scenarios.

The hospital is looking at ways to improve the process of ensuring documentation of POA and guardianship is readily available. Additional education for staff on this topic will also be provided.

### **CODE STATUS AND "PINK SHEETS"**

This is a reminder that code status must be documented on all admitted patients using the Code Status Form. This is often a straightforward documentation. In cases that are more complex, it is appropriate for house staff to discuss the approach with the attending physician. Additionally, the Code Blue Peer Review Form ("pink sheet") needs to be completed after each code. The resident or intern running the code is responsible for completing the form or delegating that task to another resident or intern. Information received from these forms has already been used to improve patient safety in a number of areas, so your time and effort in providing this feedback makes an impact.

### **MATCH RESULTS**

Garden City Hospital completed a successful recruitment cycle for the 2010-2011 academic year by matching with twenty-three candidates in the osteopathic match. Garden City Hospital led all other Michigan hospitals in terms of percentage of positions filled. Thanks to all the program directors, faculty, residents and interns who participated in interviews, gave tours, and help to promote GCH!

### **SEEING PATIENTS ON STATEWIDE CAMPUS SYSTEM DAYS**

All house staff are required to engage in some patient care activity *prior to or after* attending off-site educational conferences. Examples include: making rounds, completing an H&P or consult, or being on call the night before or the night of the conference. This requirement applies to interns, residents and fellows. If you have any questions, please discuss with your program director or Dr. Waarala.

### **DOCTOR'S DAY BREAKFAST**

The Hospital is sponsoring a breakfast buffet in the Doctor's Dining Room from 7:00 am to 10:00 am on Tuesday March 30, 2010 in honor of Doctor's Day. All house staff are invited to attend.

### **DUTY HOURS**

Thank you to the majority of house staff who have completed duty hour reports for the third quarter. Compliance is much improved this quarter. If you have not yet completed your report, please do so immediately.

**HFAP INSPECTION**

We anticipate that our HFAP (Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program) inspection will occur by March 2010. As a reminder, particular attention should be paid to the following:

- For all chart entries, include date, time, and signature
- Identify your progress notes by level of training and/or rotation (GS resident, IM intern, etc.)
- Include printed name and pager number on orders
- Complete all assigned charts within 30 days after patient's discharge
- Sign all telephone/verbal orders within 48 hours

Please maintain these good habits after the inspection has been completed!

**MOA AND GCH RESEARCH COMPETITIONS**

This is a final reminder that the deadline for the Michigan Osteopathic Association 2010 Scientific Research Exhibit Competition is approaching. The competition will be held during the MOA Annual Convention May 12 -15, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. Forms and information are available in the Downloads section of [www.gchmeded.org](http://www.gchmeded.org). Residents must submit an application and 50-word abstract to MOA by **March 26, 2010**.

Information on the Allan Breakie Medical Writing Awards, which are presented annually at Intern and Resident Graduation, has been sent by email. The deadline is **April 23, 2010**.

Good news for residents preparing posters: Medical Education can provide assistance with poster preparation. In addition, residents can have posters printed at a significant discount through Statewide Campus System. GCH will cover the costs of posters accepted for the MOA exhibition. For more information or assistance, contact Dr. Waarala.

**ACCESSING YOUR OWN OR YOUR FAMILY'S MEDICAL RECORDS**

This is a reminder that it is a violation of policy to access one's own medical records or those of a family member, friend, acquaintance, etc. even with their permission. You may only access medical records (including lab results, images and documents) if you need the information as a treating physician. You may get copies of medical records through Health Information Management. Surveillance is performed on accessing of health records and those who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

**ADVANCEMENT TO 2010-2011**

Contracts for academic year 2010-2011 will be prepared for returning residents in April. For all OGME2 house staff: AOA requires successful completion of COMLEX Part 3 before a contract for the OGME3 year may be issued. Please make sure that COMLEX scores are on file in Medical Education. Advancing residents will also need to review and validate rotation schedules for 2009-2010 to ensure accuracy of records.

**GRADUATION - SAVE THE DATE**

The Annual House Staff Graduation Dinner will be held on Friday, June 11, 2010 at the Inn at St. Johns. This year, a slide show with photos from/of house staff is being considered. We would like to include photos of all graduates, as well as some candid or family photos.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

James Chung	3/8	Adam McGregor	3/20	Edward Park	4/4
Karen Wiarda	3/8	Patrick Hickey	3/28	Christina Caito	4/8
Vita Eizans	3/10	Jared White	3/29	Ryan Murphy	4/9
April Hodnicak	3/10	Kathryn Heal	3/31	Scott Ebenhoeh	4/24
Michael Bryant	3/18	Trevor Davis	4/2	Talha Idrees	4/27
Carrie Fitzgerald	3/18	Adam Haezebrouck	4/3		