



Millcreek Community Hospital
5515 Peach Street Erie, PA 16509

News From
Medical Education



VOLUME III, ISSUE V

May 11, 2007

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Connor Liam Clark

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Medical Education

Updates:

Monday, May 14, 2007, 12noon, MCH Ed. Ctr., Breast Cancer Lec., Dr. Danielle Duchini

Thursday, May 24, 2007, 7:30am, MCH Ed. Ctr., FP Grand Rounds, Dr. John Dudzinski

Tuesday, May 29, 2007, 8:30am, MCH Ed. Ctr., GME Cmte. Mtg.

Wed., June 6, 2007, 12noon, House Staff Graduation, Ambassador Conference & Banquet Hall

Thursday, June 14, & Friday, June 15, 2007, MCH Ed. Ctr., New House Staff Orientation

UPDATE ON "IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEDICARE"

Beginning on July 1, 2007, hospitals must deliver a revised version of the "Important Message from Medicare" to inform Medicare beneficiaries who are hospital inpatients about their hospital discharge appeal rights. Notice is required both for original Medicare beneficiaries and for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare health plans.

Summary of Final Rule:

Hospitals will be required to issue a revised version of the *Important Message from Medicare* that fully explains patients' discharge rights. Rather than issuing a second and different notice twenty four hours before discharge as was proposed, the hospital must deliver the revised *Important Message from Medicare* at or near admission, but no later than (two) calendar days after the beneficiary's admission to the hospital. This applies to Medicare fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage patients. The Hospital must have the patient or his/her rep-

resentative sign the notice and answer any questions that the patient or his/her representative might have concerning the content of the notice. The hospital must provide the original, signed notice to the beneficiary and retain a copy of the signed notice.

The hospital must also deliver a copy of the signed *Important Message from Medicare* to Medicare fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage patients before discharge.

The Notice should be given not more than two (2) calendar days before the day of discharge. CMS believes that this follow-up notice will serve as a reminder of the earlier notification about the beneficiary's discharge rights. This step would not be required if the initial delivery and signing of the *Important Message from Medicare* took place within two (2) days of discharge.

If you should have any questions on this important Update, please call Karen Wilson, MCH Quality Performance Improvement Manager, at 868-8325.



"Congratulations to Rizwan Aslam, D.O. and Thomas Sellner, D.O., Millcreek Community Hospital ENT Residents"

Drs. Rizwan Aslam and Thomas Sellner attended the "American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Conference" which was held in Sarasota, Florida from May 2 through May 6, 2007. Dr. Aslam presented a Poster Presentation titled,

"The Effects of Environmental Exposure on Upper Respiratory Cilia of September 11th Rescue Workers" and he received an award of First Place.

Dr. Sellner presented a Research Paper titled, *"Nasopharyngeal Carriage of Respiratory Pathogens in Children Undergoing Pressure Equalization Tube Placement in the Era of Pneumococcal Protein Conjugate Vaccine Use"* and he received an award of Second Place.

**CODER'S
CORNER**
By, Mark Terrill, CCS
Inpatient Coder, MCH

Joint Effort in Documentation

The Medicare prospective payment system has placed greater importance on complete and accurate documentation in the medical record. In order to achieve such documentation, open communication must take place between Physicians and the medical records staff. The importance of consistent, complete documentation in the medical record cannot be overemphasized. Without such documentation the application of all coding guidelines is a difficult, if not impossible, task.

The importance of ensuring that diagnoses are substantiated by the diagnostic findings documented in the medical record is imperative. The Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (UHDDS), whose standards are the common core of data on individual hospital discharges, definition of principle diagnosis (the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning admission to the hospital) needs to be reinforced on an ongoing basis.

Although you do not need to know how to assign ICD-9-CM codes, you must have some understanding of the classification scheme to guarantee that diagnoses are documented at the appropriate level of specificity. Documentation of additional diagnoses associated with the current hospital stay is equally important to ensure correct DRG assignment. The medical staff must be informed that diagnoses related to an earlier episode that have no bearing on the current hospital stay are to be excluded.

Coders may approach you with documentation questions, but please be assured that the clinical management of the case is not being challenged, but the documentation appears to be incomplete or unclear.

A comfortable working relationship is the end result of a concentrated effort on the part of both coders and the medical staff. I look forward in working with you in the future, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at extension 8300.

MCH House Staff Members want to Thank Mary L. Eckert, MCH President/C.E.O., & MCH Administration, for the new furniture that they received in the MCH House Staff Lounge!!



James Lin, D.O. (IM Resident) & Kevin Andryc, D.O. (Intern)



Micalyn Baney, D.O. (FP Resident) & Meghan McCarthy, D.O. (Intern)

**Millcreek
Community
Hospital's Medical
Library**
**Numerous Medical
Resources Available:
Textbooks, Journals,
Workstations Linked
to the Internet For
Quick Access to
Pubmed, Ovid, Up-
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MCH Medical Library's

**Hours of Operation
are:**

8:00am to 4:30pm

**Monday through
Friday**

**Graduate Medical
Education/Library
Committee Members:**

John M. Ferretti, D.O., Chairman

Mary L. Eckert, President/C.E.O.

Deborah Lee-Sanko, Executive
Director/LECOMT

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Dennis Borczon, M.D.

Carlo DiMarco, D.O.

Douglas Grisier, D.O.

Steven Habusta, D.O.

Goffredo Ianiro, D.P.M.

Mark Kauffman, D.O., VA Med. Ctr.

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**Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs.
Garrett Clark on the birth of their
new son, Connor Liam Clark, who was
born on March 6, 2007. Connor
weighed in at 7lbs. and 4oz.**

**Dr. Garrett Clark is an Internal Medi-
cine Resident at MCH.**



**Connor
Liam
Clark**