

Hallmark Health celebrates National Doctors Day

Hallmark Health showed its appreciation for the medical staff on National Doctors Day, March 30, with special luncheons and informal receptions at Lawrence Memorial and Melrose-Wakefield Hospitals.

National Doctors Day was signed into U.S. law nearly two decades ago. The day recognizes physicians for their skill, dedication and numerous contributions in caring for the sick, advancing medical knowledge and promoting good health. Hallmark Health extends its sincere appreciation to all of our physicians for the compassion, dedication and high quality medical care they provide to our patients.

Hallmark Health, American Cancer Society sign Collaboration Agreement

Hallmark Health and the American Cancer Society, New England Division recently signed a Hospital Collaboration Agreement. The agreement ensures that the Hallmark Health Cancer Center will be informed of all resources, programs and services provided by the American Cancer Society. In addition, the organizations will work collaboratively on many key initiatives, including advocacy and outreach efforts.

"The collaboration between Hallmark Health and the American Cancer Society will be of great benefit to our patients, as it will give them access to more support programs and services," states **Rebecca Eisenberg, MD**, of the Hallmark Health Cancer Center in Stoneham.

Janet McGrail, Vice President for Health Initiatives, American Cancer Society, New England Division, noted, "We actively seek to collaborate with local hospitals to help provide the best possible care to men and woman who are diagnosed with cancer and to eliminate cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer."

The Hallmark Health Cancer Center offers a continuum of cancer care from prevention and early detection to diagnosis and treatment.

State-of-the-art MRI unit serving patients at Melrose-Wakefield

The new state-of-the-art MRI unit at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital is now open for exams, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last appointment at 4 p.m., for inpatients and outpatients.

This high-definition system, one of the most advanced diagnostic systems available, helps physicians reach confident diagnoses for their patients while delivering highly detailed images with increased speed, better resolution and unique applications. The addition of this advanced MR technology means shorter exams and greater comfort for patients plus clearer images that provide high diagnostic detail.

This new MRI technology increases

Hallmark Health hospitals launch Critical Assessment Teams

Hallmark Health System has implemented new Critical Assessment Teams at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford and Melrose-Wakefield Hospital.

The Critical Assessment Team, which is made up of critical care nurses and respiratory therapists, is an invaluable resource for nurses at both hospitals to utilize if a patient's condition appears to be worsening or they need additional resources to identify a problem. Conditions such as chest pains, change in mental status and respiratory conditions are just a few of many the Critical Assessment Team sees on a regular basis.

Hallmark Health's Critical Assessment Team is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When called upon the team will respond to the bedside within minutes and quickly re-assess the patient's condition.

The Critical Assessment Team is only a phone call away and can be accessed by nursing staff or the patients' family. Signs that list important information about the team, including contact information, will be posted in every patient room at both hospitals.

The team applies a multidisciplinary approach to recognizing early signs and symptoms of serious medical conditions and intervenes immediately

Hallmark Health's Imaging/Radiology Services capabilities to perform additional exams such as MRI arthrography, breast MRI and MRI guided breast biopsies.

It also improves Hallmark Health's musculoskeletal imaging capabilities and allows for complete advanced studies, such as MRI arthrography exams that provide soft tissue details of the joints.

To schedule all outpatient MRI exams, please call the CHEM Center for MRI at (781) 279-2213. For more information on the MRI services, please contact **John Seccareccio**, System Manager, Imaging/Radiology Services at (781) 279-2213.

if the situation warrants a new approach. The team's hope is to use early intervention and critical care skills to reduce the number of cardiac and respiratory arrests, unplanned transfers to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the need for insertion of a breathing tube at both hospitals.

"The Critical Assessment Team is an added level of care built into the hospitals to provide patients and their families with the highest quality, most comprehensive care possible," says **Marie McCarthy, MSN, RN**, Interim Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of the Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program. "The Critical Assessment Team not only complements, but strengthens the organization's commitment to quality."

The Critical Assessment Team is made up of a group of seasoned providers with years of experience and advanced certifications in various areas of critical care. All are certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and many more have completed or are actively pursuing the Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) certification.

Many members of the Critical Assessment Team have academic medical center experience and have opted to leave Boston teaching hospitals to join Hallmark Health.

Successful pilot program reduces, eliminates post-operative nausea and vomiting

Hallmark Health System has announced the tremendous success of a pilot program, which has proven to significantly reduce and even eliminate nausea and vomiting after surgery.

Research has shown that experiencing nausea and vomiting after surgery is the leading fear among patients going in for surgery. As a result, countless patients have made the decision to put off and even forego necessary surgery.

Hallmark Health clinicians recognized this dangerous trend and developed a pilot program at Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) to address nausea and vomiting after surgery. By implementing a seven-step process, the hospital has taken a comprehensive approach to improving the standard of care for patients.

The seven-step process includes assessing patients' risk level before surgery, documenting patients' risk,

apprising the anesthesia team of patients' risk level, leaving written orders with post-operative nurses for rescue treatment, pre-treating the patient based on post-operative nausea and vomiting risk, continuously monitoring patients in recovery room for nausea, vomiting and immediately treating with medication should these symptoms occur.

During the pilot period, which lasted several months, none of the patients experienced vomiting and only five percent reported feeling nausea.

"This program has a direct impact on our patients and shows our commitment

to offering the best care possible," explains **Kathleen Deleskey, MSN, RN, CPAN** and Assistant Clinical Professor at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital/Regis College Nursing Program.

Deleskey introduced the pilot program at LMH two years ago after completing a fellowship at the Joanna Briggs Institute, an international research and development organization in Australia that specializes in evidence-based resources for healthcare professionals.

Due to the success of the program at LMH, Hallmark Health is also introducing the program at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital.

CODING TIP OF THE MONTH

ICD-10 Implementation date pushed back to 2013

Taken from the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) letter 1/16/09.

The AAPC's efforts to push back the proposed ICD-10-CM implementation date of October 1, 2011 proved successful when the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) moved the date back to October 1, 2013.

The Oct. 1, 2013 date is a firm date. In other words ICD-9 codes will not be able to be used to report services performed after that date. In order to avoid entities from having to maintain the capacity to work with both coding systems after that date, the existence of crosswalks, mapping, and guidelines will enable them to move from ICD-9 to ICD-10 on and after this date.

There is a mapping program between ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes and ICD-10-CM located at both the Centers for Disease Control web page at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/icd9/icd10cm.htm>

and then on the CMS web page at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/02_ICD-10-PCS.asp.

HHS, with approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) finalized and approved the ruling on implementation dates for ICD-10-CM. In quick summary, the ruling requires the X12 standard, version 5010 electronic filing standards by Jan. 1, 2012 and ICD-10-CM code set by October 1, 2013.

In the final ruling, 5010 standards were moved back by a year and a half and ICD-10-CM codes moved back by two years. You can find the full ruling at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-743.pdf>.

Questions? Contact Bill Galvin, CPC, Director of Physician Practice Coding at (781) 338-7505.

WELCOME NEW PHYSICIANS

Daniel Chidpungtam, MD, recently joined the Department of Psychiatry. Before joining Hallmark Health, Dr. Chidpungtam was an attending psychiatrist at Cape Cod and Islands Community Mental Health Center. He has completed residencies at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Tufts Medical Center. His office is located on the sixth floor of MWH.



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