

# Medical Staff NEWS

## CHEST PAIN AND OBSERVATION STATUS

By Mark A. Greenberg MD

The appropriate admit status for chest pain patients has come under close scrutiny by Medicare and the Office of the Inspector General. The criteria used by those regulatory agencies in their reviews are InterQual based. Fortunately, the criteria for admission are consistent with those proposed by Goldman in his excellent review of the topic (*Annals of Internal Medicine*, Volume 139(12). December 16, 2003. 987-95). I would encourage all physicians involved in the diagnosis and care of chest pain patients to carefully review this well written, practical and thoughtful summary.

Goldman notes the obvious need for admission of all chest pain patients with EKG and enzyme (troponin) changes. InterQual also allows for admission to an acute care bed of patients presenting with a pattern of pain that is consistent with unstable angina. Goldman advocates that all other patients with a pattern of pain suspicious for a cardiac etiology and no compelling evidence of other causes should be placed in a chest pain unit or observation status pending serial EKGs and a repeat troponin in 6 hours. If a diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction or unstable angina is subsequently made, the patient status can be changed to that

of an admission to an acute care bed. If an acute myocardial infarction is ruled out, there is no clinical evidence of unstable angina, and there is no prior documentation of coronary artery disease, Goldman advocates discharge on appropriate medication with additional testing to be performed as an out-patient. Realizing that this recommendation will be controversial with some physicians, care management will not challenge a physicians judgment to perform stress testing prior to discharge. However, I would again urge a review of Goldman's article for the clinical evidence base that supports his recommendation.

Finally, many physicians resist placing patients in an observation status secondary to a concern that their reimbursement for services will be decreased. Surprisingly, this is not the case:

99221- Admit Low	\$ 68.91
99222- Admit Mod.	\$ 114.71
99223- Admit High	\$ 159.19
99218- Initial Observation Low	\$ 68.15
99219- Initial Observation Mod	\$ 113.95
99220- Initial Observation High	\$ 159.48

*As can be seen from the reimbursements listed above, payment is essentially identical for observation and formal admits.*

I N • T H I S • I S S U E

- Chest Pain and Observation Status • Information Technology Update
- On-line Pharmacy Formulary Now Available • Medicare and Diabetes Education
- Library News • Change in Disaster Codes • Document the Details for Severe Sepsis
  - Children's Memory Garden Memorial Service
- Medical Staff Hotline • Continuing Medical Education

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

### WEB ENHANCEMENTS:

#### **Net Access Remote Connectivity Issue Resolved**

Over the past few weeks, some physicians reported response time problems with Net Access from high-speed Internet connections. LMHS' Information Technology staff immediately went to work with Sprint Internet Services to resolve the issue.

The failure was identified as a design engineering deficiency in the network hardware and software that interconnects the LMHS network with the Internet. The deficiency has been resolved and normal access and speed restored.

Our commitment to the quality and excellence of Net Access and other physician information tools is steadfast. We appreciated your support and your patience as we worked through the issue. Should you encounter any problems or have questions, please contact Karen Mueller at 335-7753 or [karen.mueller@leememorial.org](mailto:karen.mueller@leememorial.org)

#### **Electronic Signature Authentication (ESA) Available through Net Access Late March 2004**

ESA Web is a new central database for electronically signing (authenticating) your dictated medical record reports. ESA Web enables the physician to review, edit and sign documents through Net Access. There will be an ESA Web option from the Net Access navigation bar beginning late March 2004. ESA Web will be available on any device at all three LMHS campuses, or from your home or office.

Depending on the level of access you request from the ESA Web Administrator, you will be able to use this application to:

- Electronically sign dictated reports
- Review and approve reports for patients attended by one provider, but dictated by another provider

- Administratively sign a document for another physician in your group
- Send an e-mail message to the transcriptionist
- Receive an e-mail message from the transcriptionist
- Edit transcribed documents – ability to make minor corrections on-line

For more information on ESA Web, you may contact Stanley Padfield, System Director Health Information Management at 334-5444 or Kathy Grucello, Manager Medical Transcription and ESA Web Administrator at 242-6151 or [kathy.grucello@leememorial.org](mailto:kathy.grucello@leememorial.org)

### INTERNET - LEE MEMORIAL.ORG

The Lee Memorial Internet web site continues to be a busy place, with over 40,000 visitors a month. Physicians may find the following features useful:

- **Printable physician listing** – there is a printable roster of the active LMHS medical staff available at <http://www.leememorial.org/physicianpub/>. This list gets updated monthly.
- **CME Calendar** – This online calendar is constantly updated with new educational opportunities for physicians and their staff.
- **Medical Staff linking** – Direct interested visitors to your own web site. LeeMemorial.org is now able to link directly to your site from the Medical Staff database listing. Just send your name and the address that you would like linked to [webinfo@leememorial.org](mailto:webinfo@leememorial.org).
- **Order Sets On Line** – Get standardized up-to-date order sets for ease and accuracy. Just print and fax.
- **Medical Library online reference databases** – The LMHS Medical Library now offers access to subscription-based online databases such as OVID, Proquest, and MD Consult. Check [www.leememorial.org/medlibrary](http://www.leememorial.org/medlibrary) for the

*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2*

complete list of services. You may contact the library at 334-5410 or [medlibrary@leememorial.org](mailto:medlibrary@leememorial.org) with questions.

## INTRANET - INTRALEE

The Lee Memorial intranet site, IntraLee, is available through any LMHS networked computer and has recently been revamped. Here are some features that may be useful to you:

- Phone Directory – The most commonly used feature of IntraLee is now even more

convenient to use. Look up any LMHS employee or physician right from the home page.

- Order Sets On Line – The same order sets that are available on the Internet site are available here. Get standardized up-to-date order sets for ease and accuracy. Just print and fax.
- Advanced Search – the new search engine allows for more precise searching to help users find exactly what they are looking for.

## ON-LINE PHARMACY FORMULARY NOW AVAILABLE

The LMHS formulary is now available on-line through the LMHS Intranet site. The direct link to the online formulary is:

[Http://lmhs\\_intranet/drugform/formulary\\_list.asp](http://lmhs_intranet/drugform/formulary_list.asp). It can also be accessed through the intranet set by clicking on the [link to Departments](#), and then [Pharmacy](#). The [On-line Drug Formulary](#) link is located in the green box on the left-hand side of the Pharmacy Website. Once in the formulary you can search by brand name, generic name or therapeutic description. You can then identify the LMHS formulary product including available strengths and routes of administration. Any suggestions for future enhancements to the On-line formulary should be forwarded to [pharmacy@leememorial.org](mailto:pharmacy@leememorial.org).

## PAGING UPDATE

### VERIZON PAGER SERVICE IMPROVED

Utilization of a new frequency for the Verizon Paging System, the exchange of pagers and the addition of new antennas at Lee, Health Park and Cape Coral Hospital were completed in January 2004. This upgrade improves our paging service and insures the strongest signal available to all Verizon customers.

To maintain our standard of quality services and support, LMHS has assumed Support Management for our customers. Any support issues should now be reported to the Information Systems Help Desk at 334-5226.

## MEDICARE AND DIABETES EDUCATION

Effective January 1, 2004, Medicare has removed the stringent eligibility requirements previously required for Diabetes Education reimbursement. Any Medicare patient, diagnosed with Diabetes, is now eligible to enroll in the Lee Diabetes Care Comprehensive Classes. Please call 573-5720 for patient referrals or questions.

## LIBRARY NEWS

*Narges Ahmadi, Medical Librarian*

**Stat! Ref**, a database of 58 full-text medical books, is available to Lee Memorial Health System staff as a free trial until March 22nd. Among the titles, are classics like:

*Rudolph's Pediatrics*

*Williams Obstetrics*

*Smith's General Urology*

*Internal Medicine, by Stein*

*Hurt's the Heart*

*Holland-Frei Cancer Medicine*

*Goldfrank's Toxicologic Emergencies*

*AJCC Cancer Staging Handbook*

*Current Diagnosis and Treatment series of books*

Physicians may access these and many more titles at:

<http://online.statref.com/default.asp?grpalias=FHC>

User Id is: fhla

Password: roth

## CHANGE IN DISASTER CODES

Lee Memorial Health System joined a statewide task force to recommend a set of standardized disaster codes for all healthcare. As a result there are some changes and additions to the codes we have used for several years. The purpose of adopting a standardized set of disaster codes and responses is to help reduce confusion and communication issues between healthcare facilities, county emergency management, law enforcement, etc. In addition, employees who come from other healthcare facilities or perhaps even continue to work between different facilities will not require re-training. All hospitals in Lee County are in the process of adopting these same codes

**These new codes became effective on February 1, 2004.**

Several of the more common codes remain the same. For example, Code Red (Fire), Code Blue (Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest), Code Pink (Infant/Child Abduction), Code Black (Bomb Threat), and Code Gray (Stay Away) remain unchanged.

**The following codes are changed:**

Code Green (Mass Causality Incident)

Code Orange (Hazardous Materials or Bio Terrorism Incident)

Code Yellow (Facility Lockdown)

Code White (Hostage Situation)

Code Purple (No Longer to Be Used)

**The following codes are new:**

Code Brown (Severe Weather/Tornado)

Security STAT (Security & Additional Personnel Needed)

Nurse STAT (Medical Emergency/Injury)

## DOCUMENT THE DETAILS FOR SEVERE SEPSIS

An awareness of new or changed codes affects patient care and billing. The set of codes for SIRS (systemic inflammatory response syndrome) is used to track various causes of SIRS, the severity of SIRS with and without other organ failure, significant mortality difference in these categories and treatment regimes.

If a patient has clinical findings of sepsis, call it sepsis and name the infection originating the sepsis, if this can be determined. Refer to the 038.xx code for the classic sepsis, the 995.91

code for the SIRS due to infection without organ failure, and the code for the infection.

Whenever there is organ failure, acute renal failure or acute bone marrow failure due to sepsis, refer to the 038.xx code for the sepsis, 995.92 for SIRS due to infection with organ dysfunction (much more serious), the individually named and coded organ failures, and the infectious process code.

The major factor in identifying that an organ failure is due to the infection – to the sepsis – is drawing the link through your documentation.

## CHILDREN'S MEMORY GARDEN MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday, April 18, 2004 at 2:00 PM the staff of The Children's Hospital of SW Florida will be holding the semi-annual memorial service at the Children's Memory Garden located on the campus of Health Park Medical Center. This event honors the memory of all children (from pregnancy through 18 years) who have passed away in the Lee Memorial Health System during the previous six months. All medical

staff who are involved with the care of children are cordially invited to attend. This event is very meaningful to the families and they deeply appreciate knowing that their children are remembered by their physicians as well. For more information please contact Spiritual Services at 335-7150, or the Pathway to Healing Pediatric/ Pregnancy Bereavement Program at 432-3672.

## MEDICAL STAFF HOTLINE

*For Medical Staff Issues or Concerns,  
Call the Medical Staff Hotline at 334-5700*

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

---

### **"AN UPDATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE: A CASE STUDY APPROACH"**

Ravi Thadhani, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Harvard Medical School  
Gulf Harbour Golf Country Club

**Wednesday, March 10, 2004**

6:45 – 8:00 PM

**For LMHS Physicians and Pharmacists  
RSVP by March 8<sup>th</sup> - 574-0397**

---

### **"HIV/AIDS UPDATE"**

Marshall D'Souza, MD  
Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium

**Thursday, March 18, 2004**

12:30 – 1:30 PM

---

### **"AMERICA'S CHILDHOOD EPIDEMIC: DISORDERED EATING – AN UPDATE ON ANOREXIA, BULIMIA, BINGE EATING AND OBESITY"**

Patricia Santucci, MD  
Executive Vice President of National  
Association for Anorexia Nervosa and  
Associated Disorders  
Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium

**Tuesday, March 23, 2004**

12:30 – 1:30 PM

---

### **"BETA-BLOCKERS: CURRENT PERIOPERATIVE GUIDELINES"**

Harold Kennedy, MD  
University of South Florida  
Chief of Medicine  
Director, Cardiovascular Research  
Bay Pines VA Medical Center  
Sam Seltzer's Steak House at the  
Radisson Hotel  
12635 S. Cleveland Avenue, Ft. Myers

**Tuesday, March 23, 2004**

6:30 – 7:00 PM Registration & Dinner

7:00 – 8:00 PM CME Lecture

**For LMHS Physicians and Pharmacists  
RSVP by March 9, 2004 - 574-0397**

---

### **"BRAIN ATTACK: NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TREATMENT"**

Ali Malek, MD  
Director of the Tampa General Hospital/  
University of South Florida Neurosciences  
Intensive Care Unit  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Neurology, USF College of Medicine  
Tampa, Florida  
Harry van Loveren, MD  
Vice-Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
Director, USF Microsurgery Laboratory  
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida  
Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium

**Monday, March 29, 2004**

6:30 – 7:30 PM

**RSVP by March 26<sup>th</sup> - 573-5680**

---

If you have questions or would like to submit an article to *Medical Staff News*, please contact

Joanne Gorgone, RN, BSN, CME Coordinator, Lee Memorial Health System

636 Del Prado Boulevard, Cape Coral, Florida 33990

Phone: (239) 574-0397 Fax: (239) 772-6564

E-Mail: joanne.gorgone@leememorial.org