Epic Advisory Committees are Underway

The Epic Steering Committee recently began sponsoring four new advisory committees that are serving key roles in the Epic decision-making process. The committees include: the Epic Clinical Advisory Committee (ECAC), the Epic Ambulatory Advisory Committee (EAAC), and the Epic Revenue Cycle Advisory Committee (ERAC). The fourth committee is specific to physician concerns, and is aptly coined the Epic Physician Advisory Committee (EPAC).

EPAC areas of interest for EPAC – an interdisciplinary committee comprising providers and other leaders across the organization – include ensuring patient safety, clinical excellence, and practice efficiency; patient, provider, and staff satisfaction; and effective medical education using state-of-the-art computing technology. Naturally, EPAC will be collaborating closely with the Epic Clinical Advisory Committee.

Among other things, EPAC is responsible for:

- Ensuring the clinical content, order sets and documentation templates are developed to support:
  - The quality and efficiency goals for the health network;
  - Reduced clinical variability through best practice and evidence-based workflow; and
  - Capture of data to facilitate use of analytics to support a culture of accountability.
- Developing, implementing, and overseeing provider adoption strategies (e.g., training, support, application/device integration, remote access, etc.);
- Overseeing workflow-specific subcommittees with review and approval of subcommittee recommendations;
- Collaborating with other health network committees including but not limited to: Medical Executive Committees; Pharmacy and Therapeutics; Patient Safety; Medication Safety; Order Sets Workgroup; Compliance; Benefits Realization and Quality Council.
- Supporting implementation of Enterprise EHR solutions through direct or subcommittee execution by:
  - Assisting with development, ongoing measurement and analysis of EHR clinical IT application-specific benefits realization metrics and clinical reporting;
  - Supporting processes for appropriate exchange of clinical information with independent providers utilizing IT solutions; and
  - Developing proficiency with, and direct others to, the Epic Community Library and User Web to evaluate content and best practices from other organizations.

This committee is being co-led by Ken Sable, M.D., Epic Champion and president of Jersey Shore University Medical Center and K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital, and Michael Kirk, M.D., a hospitalist at Southern Ocean Medical Center. For any questions pertaining to the Epic project, please contact badaboom@hackensackmeridian.org.
Joint Venture with Rite Aid's RediClinic Formed to Open Retail-Based, Convenient Care Clinics

RediClinic, a leading operator of retail clinics, and Hackensack Meridian Health have announced the formation of a joint venture to open convenient care clinics inside select Rite Aid pharmacies in Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties in New Jersey. The first of 10 clinics, which will be cobranded as Hackensack Meridian Health RediClinics, are expected to begin opening later this year.

The Hackensack Meridian Health RediClinics will be staffed with nurse practitioners who will be licensed to diagnose, treat, and, when appropriate, prescribe medications for common medical conditions. The nurse practitioners, who will be HMH team members, also will administer a broad range of preventive services, including health screenings, medical tests, immunizations, and basic physical exams, including back-to-school and sports physicals. RediClinic’s acclaimed Weigh Forward© weight/lifestyle management program will also be available. The nurse practitioners will be overseen by local medical directors who are affiliated with HMH.

The clinics will be open seven days a week, including extended weekday hours. No appointments will be necessary, but online appointments will be available.

The clinics will join nine urgent care centers and four AfterHours walk-in care centers currently operating throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties in partnership with HMH as convenient and cost-effective alternatives to going to an Emergency Room. For more information about clinic locations, hours of operation, services, insurance coverage, and prices, visit www.rediclinic.com.

Diagnostic Imaging: Critical Results and Significant Findings

The Imaging Departments at Jersey Shore, Ocean, Riverview, Southern Ocean, and Bayshore are now utilizing the Powerscribe 360 Voice Recognition System allowing finalized reports to be available quicker. The system has the ability to track the delivery of Critical Results and Significant Findings.

Critical Results will still require direct communication from the radiologist to the ordering physician or direct care giver. However, our hospitals will now be utilizing the dictation system to relay Significant Findings. The Joint Commission and American College of Radiologists are now mandating that all Imaging Departments have a method of documentation of communication of these results to ensure that clinically significant information does not “fall through the cracks.”

The dictation system will allow the communication of Significant Findings to you by fax, a text message to your phone, or an email. The choice is yours. Here’s how it all works:

• If we send a fax to your office, someone from your staff needs to call a phone number to acknowledge receipt of the fax and results.

• If we send you a secure text, you can click on a link within the text that takes you to the voice version of the report, and automatically indicates to the system that the result was picked up.

• Lastly, and probably most simple, is to set up an email account for your office through Yahoo, Gmail, or any other free email service. We would then email that account with a notification and a link. Clicking the link will take you or your office staff directly to the result, and automatically acknowledges receipt.

Enhanced communication of Significant Findings will be implemented soon. The communication method is your choice. Please make sure you have selected your preferred method of communication, or your office will default to a fax to your office.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Recognizes Organ Donor Enrollment Accomplishments

Hackensack Meridian Health is among a select group of hospitals nationwide recognized for reaching platinum, gold, silver and bronze levels of achievement for promoting enrollment in state organ donor registries. HMH is part of a national hospital campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The campaign has added 400,000 donor enrollments to state registries nationwide since 2011.

Awareness and registry efforts took place at HMH hospitals to educate staff, patients, visitors and community members about the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donors. The hospitals earned points for each activity implemented between May 2015 and April 2016 through the HRSA Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign.

Of the 995 hospitals and transplant centers participating in the campaign, Hackensack University Medical Center received platinum level recognition. Bayshore Community Hospital, HackensackUMC Mountainside, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Ocean Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center received gold level recognition. Silver level was presented to HackensackUMC Palisades, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy and Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, and HackensackUMC at Pascack Valley attained bronze level recognition.

For more information about organ donation and registration, visit DonateLifeNJ.org.

Center for Integrative Health & Medicine Now Open

Hackensack Meridian Health formally launched its Integrative Health & Medicine program in Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex counties with the recent opening of the Center for Integrative Health & Medicine in Meridian Health Village at Jackson. This new center and program empowers patients to reach the highest expression of themselves, engaging their mind, body, and spirit to achieve optimal health and improved quality of life.

The Center for Integrative Health & Medicine couples traditional clinical medicine with healing therapies, treating the whole patient and not just their illness or disease. It is the only integrative health program to be built upon five Pillars of Wellness – Sleep, Activity, Purpose, Nutrition, and Resilience. At the Center for Integrative Health & Medicine, patients can address their health concerns and goals, and receive a customized health and wellness plan developed by the center’s integrative specialists. The center’s integrated health physician, health coaches, nutritionist, health psychologist, acupuncturist, and other professionals work with the patient and their specialty physicians to help each patient achieve their health and wellness goals.

The center is open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located at 27 South Cooks Bridge Road, Suite 2-3 in Jackson. For more information on the center’s offerings, please call 732-994-7955 or visit MeridianIntegrativeMedicine.com.
New Vaginal Atrophy Trial
Do you have patients who suffer from moderate to severe symptoms of vulvar and vaginal atrophy associated with menopause? They may be eligible for a new research study that evaluates the safety and effectiveness of a generic form of medication that can help with this condition. The study will investigate the benefits of a generic medication versus a drug that is currently FDA approved and on the market. Study qualifications require that participants be post-menopausal (age 30 to 75), and have one or more of the following symptoms: vaginal dryness, vaginal and/or vulvar irritation/itching, painful or difficult urination, vaginal pain associated with sexual activity, or the presence of vaginal bleeding associated with sexual activity. For more information, please contact Yuliya Riley, study coordinator, at 732-776-3312.

Clinical Trial for Reflux Available
Jersey Shore and Riverview are participating in a trial for individuals who suffer from GERD and troublesome symptoms like heartburn or regurgitation. Hackensack Meridian Health is one of the only organizations in the mid-Atlantic to offer this clinical trial. The clinical trial involves the LINX Reflux Management System, which is an FDA-approved device. The device is a small band made of titanium beads with magnetic cores placed around the esophagus, just above the stomach. The LINX strengthens the lower esophageal sphincter (LES), preventing the sphincter from staying open after eating and stomach acid entering the esophagus. The clinical trial compares the outcome of patients receiving LINX to patients receiving a twice daily dose of Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) therapy, called Prilosec. It was designed for patients that have not found relief for their GERD symptoms despite taking once a day PPI’s.

LINX is implanted during a minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure which requires no alteration to the stomach. The titanium beads open and close to let food down, and it preserves normal function so you can belch or vomit as needed. It helps to reduce gas and bloating, does not require dietary changes in most patients, and 87 percent of patients have found that they no longer need medication after having the LINX procedure.

Eligible participants will receive all study-related medicine, study device and study-related care at no cost. Individuals who are not eligible may still explore options to receive the device outside of the clinical trial. To learn more about the LINX clinical trial, call Christopher DeBarin in the Office of Clinical Research located at Jersey Shore at 732-776-3198.

Care Management Update
Please be aware that we have updated our Admission Criteria on Meridian Dashboard for 2016. It can be found by scrolling with the cursor over Physician Resources on the upper task bar and then clicking on the first item, Admission Criteria, which appears on the drop-down list. This is an excellent resource in aiding your decision-making process for observation versus inpatient status for your patients. Here, you can find information for both traditional Medicare and commercial payor cases as the rules for both differ. Becoming familiar with the information provided will make one fairly knowledgeable with regards to when a patient should be observation versus inpatient.

Though now delayed beyond its original start date, CMS will be requiring that all Medicare and Medicare Advantage observation patients here greater than 24 hours receive notification (the Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice) of being placed in observation. CMS will be providing the actual form and we will be awaiting their finalized version. We have a process in place for Access Services to distribute this form to these Medicare observation patients, as well as another observation notification form of our own that will be distributed to the non-Medicare patients. For now, the latter form is being utilized on all observation patients until the Medicare notification is finalized.

Please do not use the terms “admit to observation” or “admit for observation” anywhere in your documentation. Observation patients are outpatients and outpatients are never actually admitted to the hospital. Only inpatients are admitted patients. Please use the term “place in observation” or alternatively, state the patient will be hospitalized for observation.

Jersey Shore is First Hospital in New Jersey to Offer Deep Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (dTMS)
Jersey Shore is the first hospital in New Jersey to offer deep transcranial magnetic stimulation (dTMS) – a non-invasive treatment for depression that provides new hope for patients who have experienced side effects from medications or for whom medications have proven ineffective. Deep transcranial magnetic stimulation – FDA approved in 2013 – is a new effective treatment option. dTMS is a non-invasive technique that uses magnetic pulses to painlessly penetrate the cranium and target the prefrontal cortex of the brain, where mood is regulated. It works by stimulating neurons responsible for depressive symptoms and restoring neuronal conduction, along with equilibrium of brain chemicals, in the neural pathways of the brain. The outpatient treatment is comprised of short 20 minute sessions with almost no side effects, and does not disrupt a patient’s daily activity. Most patients experience improvement after four to six weeks of treatment.

Legacy Meridian Recognized for Bringing Innovation to Palliative and End-Of-Life Care
Legacy Meridian’s Palliative Care Services were recognized with a 2016 Circle of Life Award® from the American Hospital Association, receiving a Citation of Honor for innovations in new delivery structures and payment models, with a focus on community-based and long-term care and advance care planning education for our community. The Circle of Life Award celebrates programs across the nation that have made great strides in palliative and end-of-life care. Circle of Life Award nominations were reviewed and site-visited by a selection committee that included leaders from medicine, nursing, social work and health administration. The Circle of Life Award honors palliative programs that serve people with life-limiting illness, their families and their communities, and address medical, psychosocial, spiritual and cultural needs throughout the disease trajectory.
Welcome New Medical Staff Members

Muhammad Abbas, M.D., Psychiatry
Mursalin M. Anis, M.D., Otolaryngology
Sayeed Aziz, M.D., Pulmonary Medicine
Ira Chang, M.D., Neurology
Anne Darlington, D.O., Emergency Medicine
Stacy Doumas, M.D., Psychiatry
Sean Houston, M.D., Otolaryngology
Matthew Jung, M.D., Otolaryngology
Vladimir Klinov, M.D., Neurology
Jacob McAfee, M.D., Otolaryngology
Chad Miller, M.D., Neurology
Brian Morgan, D.O., Emergency Medicine
Kenneth Newkirk, M.D., Otolaryngology
Natalie Renda, M.D., Neurology
John Roche, M.D., Otolaryngology
Maira Russo, PA-C, Otolaryngology
Josef Shargorodsky, M.D., Otolaryngology
Kevin Sheth, M.D., Neurology
Shilpa Tilwalli, M.D., Neurology
Thomas Tomasco, M.D., Internal Medicine
Jeffrey Wagner, M.D., Neurology

Telemedicine for Acute Stroke Call

The new Telestroke program has launched! The integration of technology into patient care has become an integral part of improving stroke outcomes and providing all patients with real-time specialized services, 24 hours a day. The intent of this program is to enhance the exceptional level of care that our Neurology team currently provides, by utilizing telemedicine to eliminate the physical distance between a board-certified neurologist and a patient experiencing an acute stroke – when time matters most. The Telestroke neurologist is one piece of the Acute Stroke Team, and he/she will work hand in hand with our staff physicians and nurses to provide superior care. All Hackensack Meridian Health staff neurologists will assume the role of patient care provider following the initial Telestroke consultation. As the program ramps up across the system, we know that questions will arise. Should you have any questions, please contact Alan Colicchio, M.D., at alan.colicchio@hackensackmeridian.org.

Looking for the Latest News?

The Meridian Physician Extranet www.MeridianHealthDoctor.com is your resource for the latest physician news and events across legacy Meridian Health. If you have any news you would like to share with other physicians, please contact Michael McCauley, vice president of Communications, at michael.mccauley@hackensackmeridian.org.