

Professional Staff News

News and information for the professional staff of
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota



Professional Staff News is e-mailed monthly to the professional staff of Children's of Minnesota.

December 2007

Notes from Peter Dehnel, MD, Chief of Staff

Coming soon to a
credentialing office near
you: "FPPE" and "OPPE"

"Focused Professional Practice Evaluation" and "Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation" to become a part of the credentialing activity at all Joint Commission accredited hospitals.

This is a topic that falls in the "We really do not have a choice to accept or reject this initiative" category. It is something that the Joint Commission will require starting in 2008.

The Joint Commission's goals are sound: They are trying to ensure the competency of the clinicians privileged to deliver care in an accredited institution. The challenge is creating a practical, workable program that will accurately measure that competency and meet the requirements set forth by the Joint Commission.

Today, a clinician applying at Children's simply needs proof of the appropriate training and/or certification to receive the requested privileges — provided there were no negative reports in the application. Re-credentialing every two years has primarily involved reviewing patient encounters and ensuring that there is no negative information related to peer-review actions, misuse of medications and/or blood products, compliance with medical records requirements, and so forth. All of these steps are aimed at uncovering any possible evidence of incompetence.

The two new activities — "Focused Professional Practice Evaluation" (FPPE) and "Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation" (OPPE) — attempt to proactively demonstrate a clinician's competency to provide care. FPPE is for new applicants to an institution, or individuals for whom significant care concerns have been raised. This might involve issues such as a much higher than expected complication rate or off-label use of medications that lead to patient injury or prolong their hospitalization.

OPPE is something that will apply to everyone at the time of re-credentialing. Proving ongoing competence to deliver the care that we claim we can deliver is the focus of the activity here.

Each of the three divisions at Children's — Pediatrics, Critical Care, and Surgery — will work on the specific details of FPPE and OPPE. This is very much a work in progress and any input that you have that will assist in this effort is sincerely appreciated.

There is not a pre-formatted template from the Joint Commission that we can simply modify for our use. The only thing that we know for sure is that there is the requirement to have something in place in 2008 and that Children's is likely to be reviewed by Joint Commission fairly soon.



Delivering Next Generation Care

Notes from Phillip M. Kibort, MD, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer

Children's Physician Access: Making the right connection

Children's Physician Access, formerly called Children's Physician Referral, has enhanced its services to better meet the needs of physicians. Whether on the professional staff or a referring physician from Greater Minnesota, customer service representatives will stay on the line with callers until their needs are met. No longer will callers need to hang up and try again or be transferred to a wrong number or a voice mail box.

Don't know who to call? Call Children's Physician Access:

- 5-2121, if calling from inside a Children's facility
- (612) 343-2121, Twin Cities metro area (note the prefix is unusual for Children's)
- (866) 755-2121, toll-free

Dedicated Children's representatives answer the calls and provide service for all Children's sites. With more than 15 years of combined experience at Children's or with the Children's Physician Network triage service, representatives have access to direct phone numbers and on-call schedules.

Here are just a few examples of why physicians might call Children's Physician Access:

- Referral and consultation
- Admitting a patient
- Making an appointment with a specialist
- Acquiring a discharge summary or test result
- Connection to any Children's professional staff member, department, program, or service

Children's Physician Access is for health professionals only; not families. Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, medical assistants, and referral coordinators are all welcome to call Children's Physician Access 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions about this service, contact Rachel Castro, supervisor, at (952) 931-3587 or Terri Williams, program lead, at (612) 432-8759. The e-mail address is childrensphysician.access@childrensmn.org.

Immunizations reminder

All professional staff, whether employed or non-employed by Children's, are required to have immunizations done and documented. Please remember to record your immunizations or if you have declined for medical reasons on the Professional Staff Portal. Access the portal from Children's Web site, www.childrensmn.org (user name: professional, password: staff). Click on "Influenza Vaccine" in the right column.

Children's seeks a medical director for the hospitalist program

Children's is seeking a medical director to develop, expand, and coordinate our hospitalist program, which provides care on the medical-surgical units of both its Minneapolis and St. Paul hospitals.

The goal is to extend the current daily 12-16 hour in-house attending level coverage that is currently provided by the physicians from Children's general pediatrics clinics to 24/7 in-house attending level care. Both hospitals already have 24/7 in-house attending level coverage in the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units and the emergency rooms.

Most of the patients have housestaff involvement under the supervision of an attending. The medical director will have protected administrative time to develop the program, and will also be asked to actively participate in the clinical services on both hospital campuses. Candidates should be board-certified with at least four years of clinical experience, including either hospitalist or active in-patient coverage for at least two years.

If interested or for more information, contact Clark Smith II, MD, chief of pediatrics division, clark.smith@childrensmn.org, (651) 220-5877 (office voice mail), or (651) 220-6967 (secretary).

Call for next generation care examples

The "Programs and Services" article in this *Professional Staff News* issue about the Cool Cap system offers more proof of the cutting-edge and next generation care provided by Children's. Do you have a story to share about the care you're providing in the outpatient or inpatient environment? If so, I'd like to hear from you. Please contact me to let me know what you are doing in your fields, (612) 813-6165, (651) 220-6165, phil.kibort@childrensmn.org.

Programs and Services

Cool Cap system helps reduce risk of newborn brain injuries

After successfully participating in an international multi-center clinical trial, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota is now offering a new treatment designed to reduce potential brain injuries for babies born — after at least 36 weeks' gestation — with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE).

Robert Couser, MD, a neonatologist and Children's principal investigator for the study, says hypoxic-ischemic events typically have two phases. First, blood flow slows as a result of decreased cardiac output, which raises the risk of brain damage from asphyxia. Then, when a newborn exhibiting those symptoms is resuscitated, the sudden increase in blood and oxygen flow can trigger a cascade of chemical events that can lead to moderate or severe brain damage.

Using random trial methods, Couser and other researchers selected infants presenting these symptoms to wear a Cool Cap device, which lowers the brain temperature to an estimated 32 to 33 degrees C. In the two-year trial, newborns with moderate brain damage that received head cooling had significantly better long-term health outcomes than infants who did not receive treatment. Couser believes the Cool Cap's ability to induce controlled hypothermia may slow the development of neurotoxins that often develop in HIE babies just hours after birth.

"The critical window for this treatment to be effective is within six hours after birth," says Couser. "By cooling the brain, we can often slow down or prevent secondary energy failure, which can help decrease the level of injury."

The Cool Cap system received FDA approval in late 2006. Since that time, Children's has ordered the system for its NICUs in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. To date, the Minneapolis campus has received its new Cool Cap systems, and Couser says he expects the St. Paul campus to get the new equipment before the end of the year.

For more information, contact Couser at (612) 813-6475.

Order set “freeze” begins Jan. 1

As many of you know, the next phase of the electronic medical record, Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE), is being planned and designed with September 2008 set as its go-live date. The implementation will include all inpatient, peri-operative, and emergency departments on the Minneapolis and St. Paul hospital campuses, the hematology-oncology clinic in Minneapolis, and Children’s West. These rollouts will happen simultaneously with outpatient CPOE to follow.

In preparation for this implementation, there will be a moratorium or “freeze” on new design and revisions to any paper order sets.

This moratorium will begin on Jan. 1, 2008 and continue until the new electronic order sets have been implemented and are stable. This freeze is necessary to enable IT resources to focus on the implementation and post go-live support requirements. It will also ensure that the build, testing, and review of electronic order sets are supported.

We recognize that exceptions must be made for critical needs including regulatory changes or safety concerns. A process to address exceptions is being formalized.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or process, contact **Rod Tarrago**, MD, at (651) 855-2303 or rod.tarrago@childrensmn.org; or **Phil Kibort**, MD, at (612) 813-6165, (651) 220-6165 or phil.kibort@childrensmn.org.

FDA expands age range for use of bacterial meningitis vaccine

The meningococcal vaccine, Menactra®, is now approved for use in children as young as 2 years of age. For more information, visit the FDA Web site, www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01729.html. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact **David Hoff**, PharmD, at david.hoff@childrensmn.org or (612)-813-6703.

Awards and Accolades

Joseph L. Arms, MD; **William A. Bonadio**, MD; **Marydee C. Chamberlain**, MD; **Manu Madhok**, MD, MPH; **Mariya V. Bowen**, RN, CNP; **Mary Diane Mackenburg-Mohn**, RN, CNP; Thomas M. Skrypek: “Safety and Efficacy of a Protocol Using Bougienage or Endoscopy for the Management of Coins Acutely Lodged in the Esophagus: A Large Case Series.” *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, Oct. 2007. The study was done by Children’s and the University of Minnesota, Department of Pediatrics.

Patrick Carolan, MD, presented “Progress Toward Reducing the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: An Update,” at the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care annual meeting, Madison, Wis.

Tim Clune, RN, CRNA, was elected to the Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists Board of Directors for a 2-year term. This will be his second term on the board where he served as treasurer from 1999-2001.

Timothy Culbert, MD, et al.: “Integrative Approaches to Childhood Constipation and Encopresis.” *Pediatric Clinics of North America*, 2007.

Stefan J. Friedrichsdorf, MD, presented “Sedation to unconsciousness for intractable pain in pediatric palliative care” and “Acute Pain Management for Children” at the 8th Symposium of Brazilian and International Professionals against Pain (SIMBIDOR), Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Upcoming Events

Quarterly Professional Staff Meeting

Jan. 15, 2008

Town & Country Club, St. Paul.

Second Annual Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference

Feb. 29, 2008, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minnesota History Center,
St. Paul.

Pediatric Surgery Conference

May 2, 2008, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minnesota History Center,
St. Paul.

Annual Spring Pediatric Update

May 8, 2008

John Nassef Medical Center

Awards and Accolades

Karen Hick, MD, presented "Prevalence of Adolescent Depression in an Urban Children's Hospitals' Emergency Department" and **Manu Madhok, MD, MPH**, presented "Child Life Services and Patient Satisfaction in the Emergency Department," at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) conference, San Francisco, Calif. **Anna Karpas, MD**, presented her poster "Parental Preference for Rehydration Method."

Carolyn Levitt, MD, presented at the National Internet Crimes against Children Conference, San Jose, Calif.

Manu Madhok, MD, MPH; Donna Milner, MD; Mindy Teele, and Marsha Finkelstein: "Child Life Services and Patient Satisfaction in the Emergency Department." *Pediatric Emergency Care* (Vol. 23, issue 10, Oct. 2007, pps. 764).

Nancy Mendelsohn, MD, Beth Kutzbach MD; et al.: "Sectoral iris heterochromia and retinal pigment variation in 13q-syndrome." *Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus* (Vol. 11, Issue 5, pps. 513-515).

Mary Skelley, RN, CRNA, presented "The Pediatric Airway," at the Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Meeting, Bloomington.

Susan Sencer, MD, presented "Complementary Medicine and Children with Cancer: The U.S. experience," at the International Society of Pediatric Oncology Annual Meeting, Mumbai, India.

Patsy Stinchfield, RN, CNP, presented "Opportunities and Challenges for Influenza Vaccination in Various Settings," at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consultative meeting, Atlanta, Ga.

Kathy Slagerman, RN, CPON, won first place for her poster presentation "A nurse directed program to assess patient/parent satisfaction using nitrous oxide during lumbar punctures for pediatric leukemia and lymphoma patients" and **Dawn Niess, RN, CNP; Heather Quammen, RN, CNP; Angela Robbins, RN, CNP; and Stephanie MacPhail**, won second place for their poster presentation "Unidos en el cuidado - connecting with Spanish speaking families" at the 31st annual Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) conference, Milwaukee, Wis.

Costa Voulgaropoulos, MD, served on the "Ask the Expert Panel" at the American Diabetes Association Diabetets EXPO at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Chief of Staff, 2007-2008

Peter Dehnel, MD
(612) 813-8098
peter.dehnel@childrensmn.org

Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer

Phillip M. Kibort, MD, MBA
(612) 813-6165, (651) 220-6165
phil.kibort@childrensmn.org

Senior Director, Operations Improvement, and Vice Chief Medical Officer

M. Chris Robison, MD, MBA
(612) 813-8484
chris.robison@childrensmn.org

Chief of Pediatrics Division

Clark M. Smith II, MD
(651) 220-5877
clark.smith@childrensmn.org

Chief of Surgical Services and Perioperative Care Division

David J. Schmeling, MD
(612) 813-7636

Chief of Critical Care Division

Gregory Wright, MD
(612) 813-6058
gregory.wright@childrensmn.org

Professional Staff Coordinators

Margo Dempsey
(612) 813-6123
margo.dempsey@childrensmn.org

Kathie Jacques
(651) 220-6123
kathie.jacques@childrensmn.org

Credentials specialists

(612) 813-6121

Physician liaison

Mary Mecom
(612) 813-6608
mary.mecom@childrensmn.org