

Medical Staff Update

March 2013

St. Jude Medical Center Elects New Chief of Staff

We are pleased to announce that James Benoit, M.D., has been elected Chief of Staff of St. Jude Medical Center.



Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Benoit's long list of previous leadership roles includes serving on the St. Jude Medical Center Board of Trustees, as Chair of the hospital's Department of Medicine, and on the St. Jude Heritage Medical Group Board of Directors.

During the two-year position, Dr. Benoit's priorities will include improving and refining systems to make it easier for doctors to provide exceptional care. "Improvement and transparency will continue to be our focus as we adapt to a changing environment," explains the 25-year Fullerton resident. "In the near future, value, quality and patient safety will be more than just marketing points—they will be part of our reimbursement structure."

Highly regarded by patients and peers alike, Dr. Benoit will also continue his favorite role, that of a family physician. "I love what I do," says the happily married father of two college students. "Working to ensure the safety of every individual who comes to St. Jude for care is what prompted me to seek this new role—and why I'm excited to serve."

Technology Committee Forming

A new physician informatics advisory committee is looking for members as it begins tackling two information technology needs: first, evaluating and optimizing St. Jude's information software to better meet physicians' needs. And second, providing input to the regional committee charged with helping standardize Meditech across the health system.

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New Transfusion Guidelines

The blood transfusion guidelines at St. Jude Medical Center (SJMC) have been revised to reflect the most current published literature and the new AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) recommendations.

The revised SJMC guidelines discuss both adult and neonatal indications for blood component transfusion and specifically address transfusion in hemodynamically stable hospitalized patients. For the unstable or acutely bleeding patient, physicians should use their clinical judgment regarding the laboratory values at baseline or the number of units to give.

Overutilization of blood products is not a problem unique to St. Jude and hospitals nationwide are adopting new blood management strategies. "Transfusion practices are often deeply ingrained habits—such as transfusing two units of PRBC at a time—and habits can be hard to change," explains Victor Lee, M.D., Medical Director, St. Jude Medical Center Blood Bank. "Yet changes are needed to help protect patients from adverse events caused by a therapy given unnecessarily." Transfusion related acute lung injury (TRALI), transfusion associated circulatory overload (TACO), increased risk of infection and increased mortality are all negative outcomes directly linked to blood product transfusion.

New SJMC guidelines include:

In adults, a **restrictive transfusion strategy for PRBC** is recommended if:

- Hg ≤ 7 , in ICU and medical patients
- Hg ≤ 8 , in postoperative surgical patients
- Hg ≤ 8 , in patients with preexistent cardiovascular disease
- Symptomatic anemia (chest pain, orthostatic hypotension, dyspnea, tachycardia)

It is **not** recommended to transfuse for hg >10 ; risks outweigh the benefits for those patients.

(Transfuse **one unit** at a time.)

In adults, **platelets transfusion** is recommended if:

- Platelet count $\leq 10,000$ in non-bleeding patient
- Platelet count $\leq 20,000$ in febrile non-bleeding patient
- Platelet count $\leq 50,000$ if a surgery or an invasive procedure is anticipated
- Platelet count $\leq 100,000$ if a neurosurgery or an ophthalmologic procedure is anticipated

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Technology Committee continued from front

According to Teresa Frey, RN, VP of Clinical Excellence, having an information technology committee at St. Jude will create a better channel for physician concerns and feedback. "This multi-specialty committee will help create consensus about what works, what doesn't, and how we can fix it," says Teresa.

Timothy Greco, M.D., immediate past Chief of Staff and chair of the regional physician advisory committee will also co-chair St. Jude's new committee, along with Chief of Staff-elect Panagiotis Bougas, M.D. Physicians from all specialties are needed and participation is open to any interested doctor; please contact Teresa at teresa.frey@stjoe.org or by phone at (714) 732-0524 (cell) or (714) 992-3000, ext. 5156 (office).

New Transfusion Guidelines continued from front

In adults, transfuse **thawed plasma** if:

- INR \geq 2 or PTT \geq 75, if active or imminent bleeding
- Urgent reversal of Coumadin effect is needed
- **No plasma** is indicated to normalize the coagulation tests in the absence of bleeding

The CPOE ordering process is being changed to reflect the new guidelines, including separating the order for cross-matching from the order to administer. "New CPOE functionality will allow physicians to order two units to be cross-matched, yet order the administration of just one unit until the second unit becomes medically necessary," explains Linda Walton, CLS, Supervisor, Blood Bank.

A complete list of the revised guidelines can be found in Lucidoc (search Blood Component Transfusion Criteria) as well as in the revised Meditech CPOE (look for an information icon on the blood product order).

Medical Staff News

For more information,
call (714) 992-3000, ext. 3775.

Medical Staff Meetings:

All meetings held in
Erickson Educational Center

- 3/6 – Surgery Department – 7 a.m.
- 3/7 – P&T Committee – 7:30 a.m.
- 3/7 – Medicine Department – 12:30 p.m.
- 3/13 – Cardiothoracic Department – 7:30 a.m.
- 3/13 – Women & Children's Dept. – 12:30 p.m.
- 3/14 – Patient Safety & Performance
Improvement – 7:30 a.m.
- 3/14 – Infection Prevention & Control –
12:30 p.m.
- 3/22 – Emergency Medicine Clinical Svcs. –
12 p.m.

New Physicians On Staff:

Tamika Burrus, M.D.
Vascular Neurology
Rinku Lalchandani, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology
Said Shehadeh, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychology