

Medical Staff Update

January 2016

H.pylori Antibody Testing Discontinued

Following new gastroenterology society practice guidelines, several major labs have stopped H.pylori serology testing, including Quest Diagnostics, the reference lab used by SJMC.

This growing change in clinical practice is the result of antibody testing's (IgG, IgA, IgM) poor sensitivity in distinguishing between active and past infections and its weak predictive value in populations with low H.pylori prevalence.

ACG and AGA guidelines recommend testing for active infection using stool antigen testing (in-house test), urea breath testing (send-out test), or gastric biopsy (in-house test). A test-treat-test approach is also recommended to ensure appropriate therapy selection and eradication of the infection.

For more information about stool antigen testing or urea breath testing, please call the medical center's lab at (714) 992-3931.

Eliminating Medical Device Alarms

Somewhere between 85 and 95 percent of alarm signals within the hospital require no clinical intervention—and often are the result of failing to adjust the device's default settings for the individual patient or condition.

Two common examples:

- An athlete with a resting heart rate of 50 continuously triggers the monitor's alarm which has a preset limit of 60. Instead, the alarm could have been adjusted to 45 to reflect the patient's normal vital signs.
- A patient with a-fib frequently triggers his heart monitor alarm which has a preset upper limit of 150. Instead, the patient could be more effectively monitored by adjusting the alarm to 160 to reflect his specific diagnosis.

Evidence indicates the "alarm fatigue" created by hundreds of unnecessary device alarms can slow response times to alarms that require immediate intervention to protect patient safety. Reducing nuisance alarms has become a hospital-wide safety objective, one in which physicians play an indirect but essential role, explains Nan Burchfield, MSN, RN, Patient Safety Officer.

"When you are in a patient room or hallway and notice an alarm being triggered unnecessarily, please have a conversation with the nurse about changing or individualizing the preset parameters," she explains. "This conversation can help us begin to routinely increase the preciseness and usefulness of alarmed monitors and devices."

Welcome

Kathy Mostafaie, MD, FACP, joined SJMC in November as Medical Director of Care Coordination.

Before joining St. Jude, Dr. Mostafaie was Associate Professor of Medicine at Harbor-UCLA, where she served as Director of the Inpatient Consult Service, Physician Advisor for Utilization Management, and Chair of the Peer Review Committee. Prior to her academic experience, Dr. Mostafaie was a partner physician with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, maintaining an outpatient and inpatient Internal Medicine practice.

Board certified in Internal Medicine and Obesity Medicine, Dr. Mostafaie received her medical degree at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and completed her Internal Medicine internship and residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Mostafaie's new leadership oversight includes Case Management and Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI), allowing her to focus on improving the efficiency of the discharge process; promoting evidence-based physician practice; and promoting improved physician documentation through engagement and education.

Medical Staff Meetings

Attendance counts toward the points required to maintain Active, Senior Active and Courtesy Staff status. All meetings are held in the Erickson Educational Center.

Cardiothoracic Department/QRC

– 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.
1/13, 2/10, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9

Medicine Department/QRC

– 1st Thursday at 12:30 p.m.
1/7, 2/4, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2, 7/7, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3

Surgery Department/QRC

– 1st Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
1/6, 2/3, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2

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SJMC Earns Magnet® Recognition

It is a great pleasure to announce that St. Jude Medical Center has been named a Magnet hospital, a prestigious national honor earned by only 8 percent of U.S. hospitals. This award is the highest accolade in nursing excellence that any hospital can receive.

This coveted honor recognizes hospitals that deliver an extraordinary level of bedside care, demonstrate excellence in clinical practice, exceed national standards and benchmarks, and display innovation and leadership in improving outcomes.

One of the most difficult credentials to achieve in the healthcare industry, the recognition offers tangible evidence of our quality of care to patients, employer groups, and rating organizations. Many hospital “report cards” now use Magnet recognition as an important factor in overall score.

The award comes after a rigorous and lengthy evaluation of patient services throughout the hospital, including the submission of nearly 3,400 pages of evidence—documenting continuous improvement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and shared decision-making—as well as a three-day on-site visit by appraisers in November.

Donna Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chair of the Commission for Magnet Recognition Program, made the announcement during a conference call – an announcement that was greeted with exuberant cheering and applause by those present. Ms. Haven lauded the hospital’s strong shared governance and Professional Practice Model, ongoing advancement of staff clinical knowledge and skills, and the interprofessional collaboration and innovation exhibited throughout the medical center.

Medical Staff Meetings

Women & Children’s Department/ QRC

– 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.
1/13, 2/10, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13,
9/14, 10/12, 11/9

Anesthesia Clinical Service

– 2nd Tuesday at 7 a.m.
2/9, 4/12, 6/14, 10/11

Emergency Medicine Clinical Service

– 4th Friday at 12 p.m.
1/22, 3/25, 5/27, 7/22, 9/23, 11/18

Radiology Clinical Service

– 3rd Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
2/17, 5/18, 7/20, 11/16

Pathology Clinical Service

– 1st Monday at 7:30 a.m.
2/1, 5/2, 9/12, 11/7

General Staff Meeting

– Tuesday, 4/26 at 6 p.m.

Annual Staff Meeting

– Tuesday, 11/1 at 6 p.m.