A Message From the Director

Health policy wonks including me were glued to the proceedings in Washington DC this past week. The House of Representatives had introduced, debated, and almost voted on a bill that would have repealed many aspects of “Obamacare” that our patients rely on. In particular, it would have resulted in many of our patients losing their insurance through Medicaid, and caused a large hole in the budgets of our county and our state. The bill was set to be voted on this past Thursday, then delayed till Friday, and then pulled because there weren’t the votes to pass it. I felt tremendously relieved. We have worked so hard this past six years to develop a successful ambulatory system to attract, retain, and most importantly, care for our patients, many of whom gained health insurance for the first time. I don’t want to see all that progress jeopardized.

Undoubtedly, other bills will be introduced at the federal level which will threaten our system. Debate and differences of opinion are important to a democracy. What I think is unfortunate is the recent focus has been on repealing “Obamacare” when the focus should be on how we improve our health care system and extend coverage to those who remain uninsured.

FAST FACTS

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) has recently released a report highlighting the outcomes of every transplant program in the United States. This publicly reported data now includes a multi-factorial “outcome assessment” and ranks transplant centers across the nation. Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (HUMC) has earned a 5/5 rating and is 1 of only 4 centers in California with this TOP rating, and 1 of 30 centers in the entire country with this TOP highest rating. HUMC is a member of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), which is the central agency in the United States responsible for equitable allocation of organs. The transplant team consists of physicians under the

Harbor’s Renal Transplant Program Receives “Top” Honors

By Paula Siler, RN

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) has recently released a report highlighting the outcomes of every transplant program in the United States. This publicly reported data now includes a multi-factorial “outcome assessment” and ranks transplant centers across the nation. Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (HUMC) has earned a 5/5 rating and is 1 of only 4 centers in California with this TOP rating, and 1 of 30 centers in the entire country with this TOP highest rating. HUMC is a member of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), which is the central agency in the United States responsible for equitable allocation of organs. The transplant team consists of physicians under the
Brad Spellberg, MD, Named Fellow

LAC+USC Medical Center chief medical officer and USC Keck School of Medicine associate dean for clinical affairs, Brad Spellberg, MD, has been selected as a 2017-18 Public Engagement Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science. Spellberg joins 14 other infectious disease researchers as the second cohort of the Alan I. Leshner Leadership Institute for Public Engagement in Research. Spellberg’s laboratory research has focused on antibiotic development. Spellberg earned his MD from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine in 1999 and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Staphylococcus aureus and the fungus Candida: the vaccine is undergoing clinical development. Spellberg is currently working on the immunology, vaccinology, and host defense against highly resistant Gram negative bacilli, including Acinetobacter and carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae infections. He authored “Rising Plague”, which he wrote to inform and educate the public about the crisis in antibiotic resistant infections and lack of antibiotic development. Spellberg earned his MD from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine in 1999 and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Helpful guidelines to remember:

- The BRIEFING MUST BE "BRIEF" (no more than 10-15 mins – the goal is to identify issues. Resolving issues should be held for post-briefing discussion with necessary parties.)
- ATTENDEES SHOULD COME ON TIME
- ATTENDEES SHOULD PLAN AHEAD AND COME PREPARED
- STICK TO THE FACTS - report core items concisely.

HCUCLA, LAC+USC Medical Center, RLA Rehabilitation Center, and MLK OPC will roll out their daily briefs as well as the few next weeks. If you have any questions about the ‘DHS Daily Safety and Operational Briefing’, email patientsafety@hhs.lacounty.gov or contact your respective facility patient safety officer – click your facility (LACUSC, HCUCLA, OVMC, RLA, MLK-OFC)

Many thanks to the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center – Downey’s accreditation and licensing director and their leadership for giving DHS the opportunity to learn from them and observe their daily brief.

Click to watch OVMC’s Daily Safety and Operational Brief

DHS Rolls Out Daily Safety Briefings

By Marife Mendoza

The DHS Patient Safety Committee has recommended the use of standardized “daily safety briefings” at all facilities to enhance awareness of care and operational issues that may affect patient safety. Safety and operational briefings have been used as a critical tool in healthcare and other industries, including aviation and the military, to promote:

- Situational awareness;
- Teamwork, collaboration, and communication; and
- “Timely” resolution of issues

The briefings allow facility leaders to share a quick overview of major issue(s) affecting the facility within the past 24 hours and present challenges that have the potential to impact a “safe” day at the facility. The aim is to improve direct and open communication across all units and departments within the facility. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (OVMC) was the first facility to pilot and implement the daily briefing. In the five weeks since implementation, attendance has grown to about 60 department leaders & unit managers actively participating. Observed benefits include:

- A neutral ground for everyone to report/share operational, risk, and safety issues on their units
- Real-time discussion of any clinical and non-clinical issues and challenges
- Directions about the prioritization and responsibility for problem resolution
- Prompt resolution/corrective action of the issues presented that need immediate attention
- Effective teamwork and open channels of communication
- Encouragement/improvement of event/near miss reporting
- Real-time recognition of any workforce member(s) who make a positive contribution to safety or operations

Now Recruiting for Health Information Management Directors

Do you have a RHIT or RHIA? Click on the locations below for more info:

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