Sepsis Initiative

Last year at Sharp HealthCare 805 people died of sepsis and it accounts for 40% of all mortality cases. While sepsis prevention and management has been a focus for the last several years, Sharp is renewing focus as it will be part of the system goals for FY2018. Currently the system sepsis committee has clarified definitions for sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock in an effort to improve clinical documentation and initiation of the SEP-1 treatment bundle.

Dr. James Kennedy has already spoken to Sharp Grossmont physicians while Dr. David Willms is making the rounds with Sharp Coronado, Sharp Chula Vista and Sharp Memorial. An online version of Dr. Kennedy’s presentation is slated to be available as of publication of this newsletter. Education on sepsis definitions, clinical documentation and implementation of the SEP-1 bundle will continue throughout the year.

Advanced Illness Management Initiative

Offering patients the option for palliative care should be a part of every physician’s repertoire whether in primary care, specialty care or the emergency department. Sharp’s Advanced Illness Management Committee continues to work to educate physicians on the importance of palliative care for a wide range of patients through various opportunities as well as an annual conference. During this year’s conference, national expert Dr. David Weissman presented an engaging presentation on how to have the goals of care conversation. Dr. Weisman’s presentation was received so well that Sharp HealthCare has asked him to return for a Goals of Care Conversation Workshop, scheduled for November 6, 2017. Those physicians who attend that workshop will help determine the curriculum and method of instruction for future Goals of Care Conversations training.

In support of this initiative Sharp-Rees Stealy has brought Kristen Keefe, MD on board to head the palliative care medicine program for the group. Additionally, Sharp Memorial continues to grow its palliative care referral program in the Emergency Department.

Opioids Initiative

Opioid addiction and the opioid epidemic is a national concern and the emphasis on reducing overall opioid use for pain control, whether with chronic pain patients or post surgically continues to be a significant challenge. There have been a range of educational presentations over the last few years offering physicians tools and tips on how to manage these patients.

A review of clinical data at Sharp HealthCare has identified opioid-induced over sedation as a result of over prescribing opioids as a particular challenge. This over sedation has resulted in an increased and potentially unnecessary use of naloxone (NarCan®) to reverse the effects. Future educational opportunities expect to address over sedation and other challenges related to opioid use and abuse.

Sharp CME is continuously working with organizational and entity leaders to provide timely and effective education to address the challenges that face Sharp physicians and other providers. As we work to design and execute opportunities to address these initiatives please let us know of any specific opportunities that may be available to address these challenges.
HRO at Sharp HealthCare

Do No Harm, Patient Safety Conference, 2017

Four Points by Sheraton

Sharp HealthCare hosted its annual Do No Harm Conference on September 29, 2017. The conference focus, creating a high reliability mindset was front and center. The conference was packed with dynamic speakers and motivational stories as we continue to make progress on our high reliability initiative. The faculty featured John Nance, Jeanne Huddleston, MD, and Vonda Vaden-Bates.

John Nance, renowned author, has published 19 books including Why Hospital’s Must Fly and Charting the Course. Using concepts from these books John provided insight and inspiration as to why high reliability is the future of healthcare. He encouraged Sharp to push forward and stay the course.

Dr. Jeanne Huddleston showed her passion for decreasing inhospital patient mortality using a systems-based approach to identify and treat deteriorating patients before it’s too late. She emphasized the importance of a two-pronged approach to zero defects and zero harm by focusing on decreasing direct human error and designing systems to decrease the potential for human error.

Finally, Vonda Vaden-Bates, patient safety advocate, shared her heart-breaking story – losing her husband to a post-surgical VTE that went undiagnosed. She provided the patient perspective on dealing with the aftermath of a tragic event and reminded health care providers to maintain their compassion, in these especially difficult times. Most of all, work to prevent such complications from occurring and/or resulting in the death of patients.

In closing, high reliability successes throughout Sharp were highlighted via video and attendees were asked to make a written commitment to high reliability. Most commonly, attendees committed to speaking up for safety and applying high reliability tools to decrease the likelihood of harm and improve clinical outcomes. What is your high reliability commitment?

What's New in CME

Fernando CME Associate

The CME Department is excited to introduce our newest CME Associate, Fernando Cervantes.

Fernando served nearly seven years in the US Navy Reserve as a Combat Hospital Corpsman. While attached to the US Marine Corps, he traveled all over the US and even spent time in the deserts of Morocco, Africa.

As a Corpsman he educated Sailors and Marines on emergency and preventative medicine among other subjects. Recognized for his dedication, the Marine Corps awarded Fernando, Meritorious Mast for exemplary performance of duties.

Fernando comes to us from his hometown of Los Angeles where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of La Verne. His most recent role saw him teaching math to high school students at Charter Oak High School.

When he’s not at work in CME he enjoys reading and spending time in the outdoors. His favorite books include, The Count of Monte Cristo, East of Eden, and The Martian.
Physician Spotlight:

Blogging Your Way to Health

Bret Scher, MD, Cardiology, Sharp Rees-Stealy

When did being healthy become so complicated? It was bad enough when every few months or every couple of years we encountered a journal article that was at odds with previously held beliefs. Now, with the rise of social media and ubiquitous news cycles, it seems like a daily occurrence. One "expert" says one thing, and another "expert" says the opposite. How are we, and how are our patients, supposed to know what to do?

That question inspired me to start my Health Blog. Not that I have an easy answer. I do not. An "easy" answer does not exist.

Instead, my goal is remind everyone that sexy, over dramatized headlines sell. Getting clicks and views has become more important than being accurate. That is where we need to step in.

We can no longer accept health based news stories at face value.

We need to awaken our inner skeptic. We need to use our experience and our knowledge of scientific literature to help decipher the truth from the hype. And we have to educate our patients about the difference.

We also need to re-evaluate how we practice medicine. "A Pill for every ill" has become a popular refrain for a reason. Out prescription-based healthcare model has become more and more prevalent. Lifestyle medicine and individual, patient centered care has suffered in its wake.

If I can help one doctor, one patient, one nurse, remember the importance of healthy lifestyles, remember the importance of treating every patient as an individual, then I have done my job. Even better, if I can help them better analyze health news and educate their patients accordingly, then we can start to effect real change. We can effect real change in our fight to prevent the lifestyle based chronic diseases that plague so many of our patients.

My blog won't have all the answers. But I hope it can get you started on the right path.

For more blogs like this visit: August Health Blog

Pharmacy Spotlight:

ACPE Accreditation Timeline

Sharp HealthCare’s current Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) accreditation is set to expire at the end of 2018. The CME Department in conjunction with Albert Rizos, PharmD and Mindy Ta, PharmD are currently authoring the self-study report that is the first step in the reaccreditation process. Sharp will also be required to complete an accreditation interview following the self-study submission. Information provided in the self-study and interview will be used by designated ACPE reviewers to determine Sharp’s reaccreditation status.

The timeline for the reaccreditation process is as follows:

1. Submission of self-study report: February 1, 2018
2. Completion of accreditation interview and conference call: April 2018
3. Decision by ACPE: June 1, 2018

The CME Department and pharmacy program are currently compiling documentation and writing the self-study report for submission. We appreciate your support as we engage in this process and we look forward to continuing to provide ACPE accredited program to Sharp-affiliated pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.
Activity Spotlight: Looking Back

Sharp HealthCare’s 2017 Osteopathic Medicine Conference

September 23, 2017
Hyatt regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, San Diego

Sharp HealthCare’s 2nd Annual Osteopathic Medicine Conference was held on Saturday, September 23 2017. The speakers discussed a variety of topics including transitions of care, practice transformation, ophthalmology, pre-consulting planning, emergency medicine, and diabetes. The San Diego Osteopathic Medical Association, once again, collaborated with Sharp HealthCare to provide AOA credit for all of the DO’s in attendance. This year Sharp also provided ABIM MOC II credit to Internal Medicine doctors seeking MOC II credit.

This year’s conference hosted 70 Physicians representing various organizations around San Diego County. We were please to host attendees from as far away as Palm Springs, Arizona, Texas, and even Saskatchewan, Canada. Overall, this was a very well received conference which received a lot of positive comments asking for another conference next year.

Cary Shames, DO (left) and Tommy Korn, MD (right)

Activity Spotlight: Looking Forward

The Intersection of Food Insecurity, Health and Health Care Utilization

November 5, 2017
Hyatt Regency, Indian Wells, CA

The 2016 Collaborative San Diego Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) – led under auspices of the Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties – identified food insecurity and access to healthy food as the leading social determinant of health affecting top health conditions [e.g., diabetes, obesity, heart health, and behavioral health] in San Diego. In an effort to help bridge the gap between social services and health for Sharp patients, as well as to address public health priorities per the new ACCME commendation criteria, the CME department has partnered with Jillian Barber, Manager of Sharp Community Benefit and Health Improvement to provide pertinent educational information to physicians and pharmacists. Initiatives have been planned for both Sharp Community Medical Group and Sharp Rees-Stealy to help educate on the impact of food insecurity on health status as well as to provide tools and services for physicians to address food insecurity with their patients.

Ms. Barber’s talk, “The Intersection of Food Insecurity, Health and Health Care Utilization,” will be presented at the October Sharp Community Medical Group Learning Collaborative series. Ms. Barber will also speak at the SRS Annual Conference, Sunday, November 5th, “Challenges in Health Care: Food Insecurity.” Other food insecurity and social determinant of health initiatives are in the works.
Upcoming Events

The most current list of upcoming CME and CPE activities can be found on the CME Portal. You can also view your transcripts and certificates; complete evaluations; update your personal information; and sign up for other activities.

Remember, your CME Portal account username and password may not be the same as your Sharp login credentials.

If you need any assistance, please contact:

CME Department: (858) 499-4560
Technical Assistance Center: (858) 627-5000

To access the CME Portal:
1. Visit: www.sharp.com/CMEPortal
2. Sign In
3. Select My CME to access your account

From Left to Right: Adi, John, Chris, Heather (bottom), Adriana, Craig, Diane, Fernando, Team Building Escape Room

From right to left: Amy Adome, MD, MPH (left), Raghava R. Gollapudi, MD (right) Innovations in Advanced Heart Care: From Prevention to Intervention

Jeanne M. Huddleston, MD, MS, FACP, FHM (left) Loretta Thompson MBA, CHCP (right) Do No Harm Conference

From right to left: Peggy Kollars, Terrah Oats, Chris Mattson, Cat Potter Do No Harm Conference