



# medical staff news

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## **MEC approves two items for vote by medical staff**

The MEC has adopted two bylaws amendments which will go to the medical staff for a vote later this year. One amendment eliminates the requirement that the supervising physician of an allied health professional (AHP) review and co-sign history and physicals, consultations, operative notes, and discharge summaries. If adopted by the medical staff, the amendment would mirror the Edmonds medical staff bylaws which do not require co-signature. Last month the MEC recommended a new AHP supervision policy in an effort to provide more meaningful AHP supervision than the existing co-signature requirement provides.

Another amendment approved by the MEC would make minor changes to the peer review evaluation system so that all Swedish evaluation systems better correspond. The amendment would require that system or process issues contributing to care-related findings be referred to the Quality and Patient Safety Committee which would be required to provide the MEC with regular reports on the issue.

Both amendments will be presented to the medical staff for a vote later in the year.

## **Swedish Seattle leadership changes announced**

The following changes were made, effective April 1, to the leadership of Swedish Seattle (First Hill and Cherry Hill campuses): Todd Strumwasser, M.D. is now the chief executive for Swedish Seattle. June Altaras, R.N., is the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Swedish/First Hill. This is in addition to her other role as system chief nursing officer for Swedish Health Services. Rayburn Lewis, M.D., remains senior vice president and chief operating officer, Swedish/Cherry Hill.

## **Prescribing medical marijuana prohibited at Swedish**

*by John Vassall, M.D., chief medical officer*

I have been asked if Swedish has a policy regarding physician prescribing of medical marijuana now that possession and use of small quantities are legal in the state. Marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) considers to "...have no currently accepted medical use in the United States, a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and a high potential for abuse." It cannot be legally prescribed by anyone, and Swedish policy is to abide by all applicable federal law. The only legal use of Schedule I controlled substances is within approved research protocols by designated, approved researchers with the appropriate clearances. We have no such protocols at Swedish.

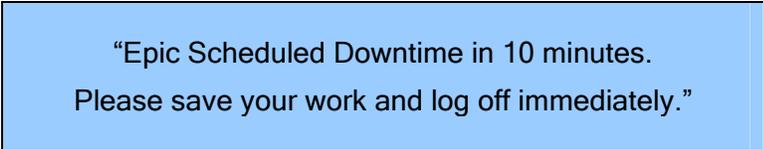
## Guidance issued on social media and the physician-patient relationship

Navigating the social media world while maintaining professional physician-patient relationships is the subject of a position paper recently issued by the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). Published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the paper acknowledges the new opportunities for connections between physicians and their patients made available by online technologies. The paper looks at the influence of social media on the physician-patient relationship, the role of these media in public perception of physician behaviors, and preserving confidentiality when using these new technologies and is available [online](#).

Medical staff members active on social networking sites or blogs are urged to be familiar with the [Swedish Internet Posting Policy](#). Another tool to help members manage their professional reputation online is [“10 Things to Keep in Mind When Using Social Media Sites.”](#)

## Epic users to be given online alert of scheduled downtimes

As part of its continuing efforts to create a quieter environment for patients during their hospital stay, Swedish no longer uses overhead paging to alert Epic users of scheduled downtimes. Instead, a new pop-up message is delivered to all Epic users who launch through Citrix. The message appears on the screen at 1:50 a.m. (10 minutes prior to the 2 a.m. downtime) and informs the user:



“Epic Scheduled Downtime in 10 minutes.  
Please save your work and log off immediately.”

Pop-up messaging began with the scheduled downtime on Sunday morning, April 21.

Users with locally-installed Epic software do not launch through Citrix and will not see the pop-up alert. However, the following steps will be taken to assure that users are aware of the Epic ‘scheduled’ downtime:

- ◆ The Informatics downtime leader initiates the following communication within 30 minutes prior to the 2 a.m. downtime:
  - Notifies the charge nurse for each ED by phone (including ACCs)
  - Pages the hospitalist on each campus
  - Pages the nursing supervisor on each campus
  - Calls the Pharmacy on each campus
  - Notifies the Dynacare IS help desk
  - Calls the Registration areas for each campus and ED
  
- ◆ The downtime date and time are announced by email and in the Weekly Briefing
  
- ◆ A ‘message-of-the-day’ comes up on Epic logon with the time of the downtime on the day of the downtime

In addition, Swedish is developing a pager group to alert charge nurses at all campuses except Edmonds, to the scheduled downtime.

For more detailed information, see the revised [Overhead Paging](#) procedures available for review online.

## Regulatory and safety update

### *Patient Privacy*

Question: Do you know how to protect sensitive information?

Answer: Patient privacy and confidentiality involves everyone on a daily basis in the form of:

*Conversations* – Everyone should constantly be aware of the conversations they are having in public areas. Cafeterias, elevators, hallways, and lobbies are never appropriate places to discuss patient information.

*Recycle and Garbage* – Managers should “dumpster dive” to see what is discarded in the regulator recycling or the garbage. Materials containing protected health information (PHI) must be discarded in a locked container.

*Countertops and Computer Screens* – Countertops should be clear of PHI, including sign-in sheets, provider clipboards, and patient lists. Computer screens should never have an unattended Epic screen visible or display any other PHI in public view.

*Display Boards* – Display boards, also known as ‘whiteboards,’ can have patient’s first name and last initial or last name and first initial, but never first and last name together. Boards are used for patient location only and cannot have any other identifier or diagnosis.

For additional information on privacy, protected health information and defining what is considered confidential versus PHI information, visit the [Privacy Office](#) intranet site. The [Information Security: Proper Disposal of Confidential Information](#) policy and procedure is also a good resource for finding answers to a wide range of questions.

### *Patient Rights Communication*

Hospitals must inform each patient (or representative) of their rights. (See [CMS Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals](#), and [WAC 246-320-141](#).) Whenever possible, this notice must be communicated before providing or stopping care. All patients, inpatient or outpatient, must be informed of their rights as hospital patients. The patient’s rights should be provided and explained in a language or manner that the patient (or the patient’s representative) can understand. Many patients’ rights are communicated at registration in the [Conditions of Admission](#) consent, and additional resources are detailed below.

#### *Outpatient resources*

• Patient Rights & Responsibilities handouts: [Amharic](#) / [Arabic](#) / [Chinese](#) / [English](#) / [Korean](#) / [Russian](#) / [Somali](#) / [Spanish](#) / [Tagalog](#) / [Tigrigna](#) / [Vietnamese](#)

#### *Inpatient resource*

• [Welcome to Swedish](#) brochure placed in all Inpatient rooms (multiple languages available).

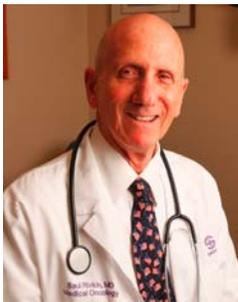
## Research Investigator Forum: March 2013

by Jennifer Hansberry, administrative director, Clinical Research Center

Twice a year the research center brings together researchers, and representatives from administration, foundation, marketing, and the research center to hear about projects conducted by Investigators at Swedish. This was our fourth Investigator Forum and again it was a great success drawing teams from throughout the organization to learn more about current and past activities, discuss issues of interest or concern, and share ideas on future directions for research. This forum we learned about the success of the 2013 Swedish Neuroscience Institute summer research intern program from Michael J. Doherty, M.D. and the presentation of study results made by one of those interns at the 2013 American Academy of Neurology annual meeting in April. The program is a huge success with 200 applicants already applying for the 2014 slots. Swedish Neuroscience Institute Investigators will again be serving as mentors this year and our interns, many of which who are bound for medical school, will have more opportunities to support our research and their own future goals.

Also highlighted at this event was an introduction to Thomas Brown, M.D. of the Swedish Cancer Institute who shared his view for the potential future of research for his program into personalized medicine. The Foundation's presentation generated significant interest and discussion on the topic of philanthropic opportunities for research including great discussion on how key research physicians have partnered with them to advance their programs through grateful patient donation. The culture of collaboration finished with discussion on achievements of the research program and possible new directions for the program to facilitate and focus so that research can prosper and align with institutional and industry directions.

### Rivkin to retire after 42 years at Swedish



Saul E. Rivkin, M.D., has announced his retirement from clinical practice at Swedish this July after a 48-year career in medicine, 42 of them at Swedish. Rivkin received his medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1964, and joined Swedish in 1971 as one of the hospital's first medical oncologists.

Dr. Rivkin became the leading force in the early 1970s to establish clinical research at the Swedish Cancer Institute. In 1971, Swedish engaged the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) under his leadership for access to clinical trials. In 1976, Swedish received its first National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant award in support of SWOG activities with Dr. Rivkin as principal investigator – a grant that continues to this day with over 36 years of continuous funding. Over the years, Dr. Rivkin has received numerous accolades in clinical research, most notably his landmark work in adjuvant treatment for early stage breast cancer.

In 1989, Dr. Rivkin's wife, Marsha, was diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer. Marsha passed away in 1993 and Dr. Rivkin re-committed his work to the development of new treatments, early detection, and prevention of ovarian cancer. In partnership with Swedish and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Dr. Rivkin established the Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research in 1996 which has raised and invested nearly \$14 million for research.

The Rivkin Center began with the creation of the *Swedish SummeRun* event. This year the 19th *SummeRun & Walk for Ovarian Cancer* will be held on Sunday, July 21, and will include a tribute to Dr. Rivkin. Visit [www.summerun.org](http://www.summerun.org) to make a donation or register to run or walk with Team Swedish.

Additionally, in celebration of Dr. Rivkin's remarkable career and to help fulfill his great ambition to continue to grow and prioritize the national research focus on ovarian cancer, the Rivkin Center has announced the creation of the Saul Rivkin Innovation Fund. For more information or to make a gift in Dr. Rivkin's honor, please visit [www.rivkin.org](http://www.rivkin.org) or call 206-215-6200.

## BLS course offered to Swedish medical staff



Basic Life Support courses in April taught rescue breathing, the latest recommendations for CPR, and use of an AED in adults and children. Participants received hands-on training and a two-year BLS certificate. Here, Drs. Paul Sytman (left) and Marcio Sotero demonstrate modern BLS technique for medical professionals. The victim is in stable condition.

## Swedish Foundation launches Honor Your Caregiver program



Bricks, mortar and advanced technologies are vital to the operations of any hospital. But what makes Swedish an institution so crucial to the community is the commitment and compassion of its caregivers. Swedish Foundation recently launched the Honor Your Caregiver program as an opportunity for patients to celebrate the exemplary care they have received by making meaningful contributions to Swedish in honor of their caregivers, who will receive special recognition. Patients have responded by making more than 250 gifts since the start of the program on Jan. 1.

For more information contact [Mary Hackett](#), director of annual giving, at 206-386-6796.

## Community health classes offered

Every month, Swedish hosts free and low-cost community classes on various topics that may be helpful to share with patients. Classes include:

### **Conscious Fathering**

Saturday, May 4 or May 18 from 9 a.m.-noon (Swedish/Cherry Hill)

This terrific, program for dads empowers new fathers to build a partnership in caring for and nurturing their children from the very first day. Fee: \$45/father.

### **New Parents Support Group**

Mondays, May 6-June 24 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Swedish/Issaquah)

Parents bring questions, concerns and parenting experiences to this group facilitated by an experienced parent educator. Fee: \$80/couple.

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*(Health classes continued from p. 5)*

**Care Down There: Pelvic Health for Moms**

Tuesday, May 7 from 10 a.m.-noon (Swedish/Issaquah)  
Patients will learn about post-pregnancy pelvic recovery. Free.

**Hearing Loss Intervention Options: Amplification to Implants**

Tuesday, May 7 from 10-11 a.m. (Swedish/Cherry Hill)  
Patients will learn the options available to address hearing loss, from traditional amplification to the latest in implant technology. Free.

**New Moms Support Group**

Wednesday, May 8-June 26 from 12:30-2 p.m. (Swedish/Ballard)  
Mothers bring questions, concerns and parenting experiences to this group facilitated by an experienced social worker and parent educator. Fee: \$80.

**Getting Your Mojo Back: Pelvic Health After Menopause**

Thursday, May 9 from 6-8 p.m. (Swedish/Issaquah)  
Patients will hear from experts about how to optimize pelvic health as they age. Free.

**Can You Hear Me Now?**

Wednesday, May 15 from 10-11 a.m. (Swedish/Ballard)  
Thursday, May 16 from 10-11 a.m. (Swedish/Redmond) or  
Thursday, May 30 from 10-11 a.m. (Swedish/Issaquah)  
This interactive discussion will turn up the volume on frequently asked questions about hearing loss, hearing aids and strategies to communicate with hearing-impaired friends and family members. Free.

**Bringing Baby Home**

Sundays, May 19-26 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Swedish/Ballard) or Sunday, May 19-June 2 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Swedish/Cherry Hill)  
The Bringing Baby Home workshop focuses on providing new parents with the knowledge and skills necessary to cope constructively with the birth of their child. Fee: \$160/couple.

**Treating Prostate Cancer: Is Less Really More?**

Thursday, May 23 from noon-1 p.m. (Swedish/Issaquah)  
In this session, Robert Meier, M.D., will discuss controversies, active surveillance, and the treatment options with patients. Free.

To see a full list of classes or to register for a class, patients should visit [www.swedish.org/classes](http://www.swedish.org/classes), email [healtheducation@swedish.org](mailto:healtheducation@swedish.org), or call 206-386-2502. Providers and staff may contact [Kaetlin Miller](#), health education specialist.

**Welcome new medical staff members**

Help welcome practitioners who joined the medical staff in [April](#).

**To admit a patient to Swedish, call 206-386-6090.**

## Kudos



**Mike Tuggy, M.D.**, program director for Swedish Family Medicine Residency/First Hill, has been leading the development of a shared, online repository of high-quality residency curriculum created by residency programs. Dr. Tuggy's vision is taking shape in the just-released Family Medicine Residency Curriculum Resource. The Resource currently includes a core topics list for postgraduate year one with recommended readings, including evidence-based articles and clinical practice guidelines. Access is available free of charge to members of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors. For more information visit the [Society of Teachers of Family Medicine news release](#).

**Sam Cullison, M.D.**, former Swedish Family Medicine Residency/Cherry Hill program director, was awarded the Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director Award, jointly sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD). Family medicine residency directors, program faculty, residents, and the AAFP constituent chapters honor outstanding program directors by submitting names for consideration for the annual award. Award recipients must be a family medicine program director who has demonstrated leadership and advancement of the specialty, served as a mentor to residents and medical students, and served the community as well as the organizations of the family of family medicine. Dr. Cullison recently became the vice president for graduate medical education at Methodist Health System in Dallas, Texas. He is an Honorary member of the Swedish medical staff.



## At Your Service: The Physician Assistance Program

The Swedish Physician Assistance Program is a confidential, outside resource available to medical staff members and their families at no cost to support members in addressing:

- Family or marital concerns
- Substance abuse
- Work-life balance issues or other problems
- Emotional or behavior issues
- Compulsive behaviors

The program is always confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-777-1323. Benefits also include free legal services, childcare and eldercare referrals, identity theft/fraud services and debt management assistance.

Check out the [online tools and resources](#). At the “Work/Life Resources” tab enter the username: “swedish” and the password: “employee” for immediate access. . The username and password provide access for all medical staff members, whether or not employed by Swedish.

## CME spotlight

### *Upcoming CME Conferences*

#### [Seventh Annual Cerebrovascular Symposium](#)

Thursday-Friday, May 9-10

#### [Sixth Annual Iris and Ted Wagner Endowed Lectureship](#)

Wednesday, May 22

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(CME continued from p. 7)

[Fifth Annual Acute Care Neurology and Neurosurgery](#)

Friday, May 31

[Adolescent Health and Pediatric Obesity \(R3 Talks\)](#)

Friday, June 7

[Pacific Northwest Epilepsy Symposium, 2013](#)

Friday, June 14

Orthopedics for Primary Care

Friday, Sept. 9

Intensive Update in Neurology, 2013

Thursday-Friday, Sept. 12-13

Telehealth: Improving Access to Healthcare

Friday, Sept. 20

17th Annual Pain Management Symposium: Sherlock and the Mystery of Pain

Friday, Sept. 27

Controversies in Neuromodulation

Friday, Oct. 18

11th Annual West Coast Colorectal Cancer Symposium

Friday, Oct. 25

[Transradial Approach: A Case-based and Hands-on Training Course](#)

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 8-9

Diabetes Management Update

Friday, Nov. 15

*CME Series*

[Cancer Conference Series](#)

12 sub-series | First Hill, Cherry Hill, Ballard, Issaquah and Highline

[Combined Campus Cardiovascular Conference Series](#)

2nd & 3rd Thursdays | Cherry Hill

[Grand Rounds](#)

2nd Thursdays | First Hill, Ballard and Issaquah

[Medical Ethics Conference Series for Health-care Providers](#)

4th Wednesdays | First Hill, Ballard, Edmonds and Issaquah

[Swedish Neuroscience Institute Grand Rounds](#)

1st & 3rd Thursdays | Cherry Hill

For the most up-to-date information, visit: [www.swedish.org/CME](http://www.swedish.org/CME).

## Standards News

[Click here](#) for a summary of Clinical Standards recently adopted or amended and links to each Standard.

Standards are published as soon as possible after final adoption. All Swedish Standards are accessible at <http://standards.swedish.org> or by going to the Swedish intranet page and clicking on “Standards.”



**SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER**

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