Next Round of Photo Sessions Start February 2009

If you haven’t had your photo taken for the new Physicians Directory, round two will start in February 2009. The directory is scheduled for completion Spring 2009.

Thank you to those who participated in the first round. For those of you wishing to participate, we will contact you in the beginning of February 2009.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Physician Relations at 425.640.4645.

CEO of Swedish Medical Center Meets with the Stevens Medical Staff

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, Dr. Rod Hochman, the CEO of Swedish Hospital, met with the Stevens Medical Staff in a “fireside chat” format to answer questions regarding the new relationship being discussed between our two medical organizations.

“Health care is going to go through a lot of changes in the next decade,” said Dr. Hochman. “No matter what happens in Washington D.C.” I think we’re going to have to get smarter in our strategies as we go forward.”

One of the strategies Dr. Hochman is passionate about is creating health systems, which enable hospitals to work together, reducing backroom redundancies while creating efficiency and value. Swedish and Stevens Hospitals have had a long standing relationship, going back to the 90s, so it is logical that the two organizations would work towards taking their relationship to next level.

According to Dr. Hochman, Swedish feels strongly about quality health care in south Snohomish County. The approach being discussed by Swedish and Stevens is how to go about developing care in this community and the best way to take advantage of the opportunities offered here at Stevens Hospital.

“If you have the physicians and the community behind you, you are generally in pretty good shape,” said Dr. Hochman. “The community wants local care. What are some of the things we can do to make it happen?”

In his role as CEO of Swedish, Dr. Hochman is tasked with leading the hospital on multiple fronts. These long-term priorities include implementing a state-of-the-art clinical information system, spearheading the organization’s long-term strategic planning process, solidifying Swedish’s leadership role in clinical and service quality, continuing to develop and enhance key service lines, as well as helping strengthen Swedish’s culture of philanthropy and leading a major fund-raising campaign.

His medical background is in Rheumatology/Internal Medicine, and he has served as a Clinical Fellow in Internal Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Dartmouth Medical School.

A DVD of the meeting will be available soon. Look for details in the next issue of Vital Signs.
Update on Electronic Signature

On October 28th, a pilot group of six providers were trained on the WebMedx electronic signature program and are now signing their dictated/transcribed reports on-line. Training takes less than 10 minutes. The program is accessible on computers throughout the facility and can be accessed.

Next Phase? Hospitalists!
The goal is for all dictating providers to sign their transcribed reports electronically by December 31st. We will be contacting you to schedule your training in the next few weeks.

If you have questions, please contact: Health Information Management Heather at x4204 or Jan at x4201

Medical Records Forms
In preparation for moving to an electronic medical record, we need to make some revisions to our medical records forms that you need to be aware of.

In order to make our forms ready to image/scan, we need to do include bar-coded information to identify the patient and the form, eliminate NCR copies wherever possible, remove dark shading, and remove all colors including colored borders. For example: yellow border on physician orders, purple border on pathology reports, and blue border on progress notes.

Quarterly Medical Staff Meeting

The Quarterly Medical Staff meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21. There were 63 attendees who enjoyed wine tasting in addition to the evening’s business agenda.

Loree McGill, RN, CPDI Program Manager presented her preliminary work with the Clinical/Physician Documentation Improvement (CPDI) Program. She outlined her process for chart review. There has been excellent collaboration with Physicians regarding documentation improvement and the hospital is seeing improved reimbursement for this effort.

Mike Carter outlined the process of the Collaboration Review Committee (CRC). This Committee consists of Mike Carter, CEO, Deana Knutsen, Commissioner, Fred Langer, Commissioner, Dr. Marc Rosenshein, Dr. Michelle Sinnett, Rick Canning, CFO, Jack Kirkman, CDO, and Brad Berg, hospital attorney. Their first meeting was held on Monday, October 20.

The resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, September 24, and authorized senior management to undertake discussions with Swedish Health Services to identify potential service line agreements and/or service line ventures. More meetings are planned through the end of the year but at this point are confidential.

The slate of nominees for medical staff officers was presented.

Swedish Heart & Vascular-Stevens Pavilion

Swedish Heart & Vascular-Stevens Pavilion (formerly Stevens CardiologyEdmonds) have joined forces to offer unified and enhanced cardiology services and consultations in the North King/South Snohomish region.

The newly consolidated Swedish Heart & Vascular group brings together local expertise and full-time dedication to the community. The Stevens Pavilion clinic remains at its same location on the Stevens Hospital campus (7320 216th St. S.W.), while the Edmonds clinic has moved to a new building attached to Edmonds Family Medicine (7315 212th St. S.W.).

Dr. Ralph Althouse will serve as regional medical director of the two clinics, and Pam Standlee, RN, will serve as north regional administrator and facilitate the integration of each former group into a unified consolidated practice. Dr. William Stanley will serve as clinical site medical director at the new Edmonds Family Clinic location.

Additionally, Physicians from the Stevens Pavilion clinic will now have office hours at the Edmonds clinic.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Ralph Althouse or Pam Standlee at 425.744.1777 if you have any questions.

Swedish Heart & Vascular-Stevens Pavilion Consolidation

Babu Rajendran, M.D. Secretary-Treasurer

Richard K. McClelland, M.D. Chief, Emergency Services

David F. Peck, M.D. Chair, Medical Records/Utilization Review

Alexander G. Chung, M.D. Chief, Medicine

Jeffery R. Scott, M.D. Chief, Pediatrics

Timothy E. Little, M.D. Chair, Pharmacy & Therapeutics

Victoria L. Harris, M.D. Chief, Psychiatry

Kurt E. Harmon, M.D. Chief, Surgery

The slate still needs to be approved by the Governing Board. Results will be announced at the end of December 2008.
Stevens Hospital Physician Honored

Dr. Alexander Chung, the medical director for the Hospitalist Program at Stevens Hospital, was recently recognized as the Medical Director of the Year in the Northwest Emergency Physicians region.

Dr. Chung was one of six award recipients nationwide selected from a field of over 500 employees at 100 hospitals.

According to Team Health Hospital

**Background on Core Measures**

Introduced in February 1997, The Joint Commission’s ORYX initiative was designed to integrate outcomes and other performance measurement data into the accreditation process. As such, ORYX measurement requirements were originally intended to support Joint Commission accredited organizations in their internal quality improvement efforts as assessed through the onsite survey process.

In July 2002, The Joint Commission began requiring accredited hospitals to collect and submit core measure data. Over time, data use has expanded in the accreditation process, used for public reporting and accountability purposes, and for pay-for-performance initiatives (including the Reporting Hospital Quality Data Annual Payment Update process administered through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services).

Beginning in 2006, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), under its Hospital Quality Initiative, required hospitals to submit data for three conditions to assure full reimbursement. All of the National Hospital Quality Measures common to The Joint Commission and CMS are endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and are also used for the “Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA): Improving Care through Information” initiative.

**Concurrent Review**

The standards address a range of measures for acute myocardial infarction, heart failure and pneumonia. To support compliance with these measures, hospitals across the country are introducing concurrent review of the medical record in order to find and fix problems before the patient is discharged. Beginning November 24th, Stevens Hospital is also implementing a concurrent review process on two of our units, 8 West and 5 West. A quality coordinator will conduct a review of applicable medical records Monday through Friday, using a tool that lists the elements of each of the measures and allow the reader to discern the status of compliance. Such a timely review will allow us to address problems prior to discharge thereby increasing our compliance. As core measures represent valid clinical parameters, compliance should improve patient care unless there are specific contraindications. Core measures decrease variability in patient care and decreasing the degree of variation in a complex process is a generic indicator of better quality that may lead to better patient outcomes.

**Wound Healing Move**

Tentatively in early December, the former Wound Healing Institute at Stevens Hospital will be called Center for Wound Healing & Hyperbarics and will be located in the 76 Professional Commons building at 21911 76th Ave West, Suite #204, Edmonds.

The addition of this new service, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, is very exciting for Stevens Hospital as currently there are no other HBO programs between downtown Seattle and the Canadian border.

**Door Codes**

Door codes will be changing by the end of the year. The Medical Staff Office will send notification in the mail regarding when new cards will be available for pick up.

**Did you Know…?**

We were able to send $1,350 to the Snohomish Boys and Girls Club from the medical staff that donated their meeting stipend.

**Newsletter Access**

Any Medical Staff member with an article or item for the newsletter should contact Jennifer Sanchez at 640.4645 or at Jsanchez@stevenshospital.org by the 30th of the month to make sure it gets in the following month.
WELCOME New Stevens Medical Staff – October 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard D. Atwater, M.D.</td>
<td>Northwest Hand Specialists</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
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<tr>
<td>William E. Curtis, M.D.</td>
<td>Swedish Cardiac Surgery</td>
<td>Thoracic Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramesh Rao, D.D.S.</td>
<td>Fircrest School</td>
<td>General Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles A. Roberson, M.D.</td>
<td>Northwest Hand Specialists</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela J. Sparks, M.D.</td>
<td>Birth and Family Clinic</td>
<td>Family Practice</td>
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Stevens Hospital Breast Imaging Open House
Meet imaging experts and see demonstrations of the new equipment at our Medical Staff open house

When: December 2nd, 6pm to 8pm
Where: Stevens Hospital Campus, Stevens Pavilion Imaging, 7320 216th ST. SW, Edmonds.

Equipment Featured at Open House: Hologic Selenia full field digital mammography units, Integrated R2, Cenova computer aided detection (CAD), Hologic Multicare Platinum stereotactic biopsy system, Suros breast biopsy system, Acuson anatases, and ultrasound unit.

You may contact Christina Derby for more information at 425.673.3930

To Admit a Patient to Stevens, Call 425.640.4444

Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

2008 Medical Staff Holiday Dinner
The Medical Staff Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm. The Edmonds Floral Center is again the location for this social evening.

Happy Thanksgiving

Gratitude is the heart’s memory