

medical staff news

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEDICAL STAFF OF SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER

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NEWS

System and Campus Chief of Staff-Elect Leaders Chosen



In balloting completed last month the Swedish Medical Staff has elected Jennifer Spence, M.D., as the system chief of staff-elect. She will become the system chief of staff following completion of a two-year term that began Jan. 1. Dr. Spence is a board-certified family medicine physician who joined the medical staff in 2005. She has served in several leadership positions, most recently as chief of staff of Issaquah. [Continue reading.](#)

Medical Staff Regulatory Compliance Reference Guide Updated

Medical staff members are encouraged to [visit the Continuous Regulatory Readiness and Accreditation](#) page on Swedish Online and stay current on regulatory requirements and expectations. Included in the site is the [Medical Staff Regulatory Compliance Reference Guide](#) that addresses the most common best practices for patient safety and includes quick questions that often arise during a survey.

Pharmacy Update – Severe Opiate Shortages

Pharmacy continues to manage ongoing shortages of commonly used injectable opiate medications, namely fentanyl, hydromorphone and morphine. Factors leading to shortages include plant shutdowns and the hurricane affecting Puerto Rico. Manufacturers have variable releases of products, and availability of any one product may vary on a monthly or weekly basis. This situation will last through 2018 into early 2019. [Continue reading.](#)

Updating a Commonly Used Abbreviation in Medication Orders

In order to align with best practice guidelines by ISMP (Institute for Safety Medication Practices) on the use of error-prone abbreviations, a commonly used abbreviation for medication order frequency “HS” will be replaced by the designation “BEDTIME.” [Continue reading.](#)

Screening Patients in Hurricane-Affected Areas

There have been media reports and accounts of various infectious diseases in hurricane-affected areas, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Because of compromised drinking water and decreased access to safe water, food and shelter, the conditions for outbreaks of infectious disease exist. Clinicians assessing patients currently in or who have recently returned from hurricane-affected areas are being asked to be vigilant in looking for certain infectious diseases, including leptospirosis, dengue, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, vibriosis, and influenza. [Learn more and get recommendations.](#)

Hepatitis A Outbreaks in California

A large hepatitis A outbreak is ongoing in California with a majority of reported cases among those who are homeless, who use injection and non-injection drugs. The outbreak is being spread person-to-person and through contact with a fecally contaminated environment. The CDC notes that person-to-person transmission through close contact is the primary way people get hepatitis A in the United States. San Diego, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles counties have declared local outbreak status. Outbreak associated cases have been confirmed in other California jurisdictions. [Get details and resources.](#)

Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease Outbreak at Oregon State University

Five OSU students have been diagnosed with serogroup B meningococcal disease during this academic year; the most recent case diagnosed Nov. 24. Meningococcal disease outbreaks can persist for months. Clinicians: Be aware of an ongoing serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak as many OSU students will be travelling or returning home during the winter break. [See advisory notice and resources.](#)

Welcome New Medical Staff Members

Welcome practitioners who [joined the medical staff in December.](#)

KUDOS

Medical staff members may submit news about awards, recognitions, published articles, media reports, and other professional achievements for consideration in "Kudos" by emailing [Medical Staff News.](#)

POLICYWONK

New/Updated Standards

[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."

CME

Swedish Continuing Medical Education Opportunities

Swedish offers a variety of accredited CME events, including full-day conferences, online courses and regularly scheduled series. Visit www.swedish.org/cme for a complete list of upcoming events.

Northwest CME Facebook Page

Swedish Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Providence Regional Medical Center Everett CME have created a joint social media partnership to foster greater awareness of our quality medical education programs and events across the system. The initial result of this partnership is a new Facebook group titled "Northwest CME". We encourage you to [join our new Facebook group](#) to participate in our learning community and stay up-to-date on our CME programs.

Swedish CME Committee Members

Are you passionate about medical education? The Swedish Continuing Medical Education (CME) Committee has openings for dedicated medical professionals looking to positively contribute to the ongoing education of the medical community. The committee meets quarterly to discuss the plans and efforts of the Swedish CME program. If you or a colleague may be interested, please email cme@swedish.org for more information.



Medical Staff News: swedishmedicalstaffnews@swedish.org

Swedish Home Page: <http://www.swedish.org>

Physician Profiles: <http://www.swedish.org/for-health-professionals/professional-resources/managing-your-physician-profile>

Swedish for Medical Professionals: <http://www.swedish.org/for-health-professionals>

Current CME Listings : <http://www.swedish.org/cme>

Swedish Foundation: <http://www.swedishfoundation.org/>

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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
- Grief and loss
- Home ownership consultation
- Emotional or behavior issues
- Compulsive behaviors
- Caregiver burnout
- Management coaching

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](#). Enter your username, swedish, in order to access the library of work/life tools, trainings, and webinars available to you.

And So Forth...

Leadership Elections

Campuses have also completed leadership elections. In the most recent round of voting, the following individuals were elected as chief of staff-elect at their primary campus:

Sarah Garber, M.D.	Ballard
Zachary Litvack, M.D.	Cherry Hill
Steve Dresang, M.D.	First Hill

Brenna Born, M.D., was previously elected chief of staff-elect for the Issaquah campus. Two-year terms began Jan. 1. Along with the campus chiefs of staff these individuals serve as campus representatives on the medical executive committee. They will assume the campus chief of staff positions in 2020.

Opiate Shortages

To keep prescribers informed, shortage alerts are posted on these medications, and a link is provided to a [frequently-updated shortage summary](#). Items in red are critically low and use should be minimized/avoided. These alerts and shortage summaries should be reviewed on a frequent, regular basis to keep informed on product availability. In some cases you may be requested to change therapy due to a shortage/outage. Contact your campus pharmacy for more information.

Abbreviations

This change to "BEDTIME" designation will affect all Epic frequency selections that contain "HS."

Furthermore, this change applies to all medication orders, telephone/verbal prescriptions, computer-generated labels, labels for drug storage bins, medication administration records, and internal education materials/communications.

Please refer to the current system standard "[Dangerous Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols](#)."