FBC Medical Staff Quarterly Meeting to be Held Tuesday, Nov. 15
Medical staff unification presentation and discussion to be featured
The First Hill/Ballard/Cherry Hill (FBC) medical staff will hold a quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cherry Hill Education and Conference Center. All medical staff members are encouraged to attend. Dinner will be available at 5:30 p.m. Continue reading.

Issaquah Medical Staff to Meet and Decide on Unification
The Issaquah medical staff will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 in the Knowledge and Leadership Conference Rooms for a presentation, discussion, and vote on the proposal to form a single medical staff with First Hill/Ballard/Cherry Hill. Information on the proposal is available online. All Active members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important conversation and vote. Dinner is available beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Lew Chosen as FBC Chief of Staff-Elect; Three New MEC Members Elected
Active members at First Hill/Ballard/Cherry Hill have chosen Janice Lew, M.D., as the chief of staff-elect and have elected three new MEC members: William J. Wilson, M.D., (orthopedics) Sean Lawler, M.D., (pediatrics), and Luba Foltz, M.D., (women and infants medicine). All terms are two years and begin Jan. 1.

Issaquah Elects Three MEC Members
Three members were recently elected to two-year terms on the Issaquah MEC, including Michele Arnold, M.D., Richy Lee, M.D., and Tanya Wahl, M.D. Dr. Wahl will be serving her second term.

Admitting and Consulting Specialties Guide Now Online
The Swedish Hospitals Admitting and Consulting Specialties Guide is now available on Swedish Online. The purpose of this guide is to provide Swedish admitting providers and others involved in the admitting process with a summary reference of inpatient services available on each campus. Continue reading.

Stay Up-to-Date on the First Hill Expansion Project
The Swedish First Hill expansion project will provide essential updates to the campus, including two new buildings. The new Northwest Tower will house the emergency department, dining facility, critical care units, surgical suites and patient rooms. Another new building, Block 95, will provide numerous support functions for the campus. For more information, visit the expansion project web site.

New Form for Requesting Medical Records
Swedish has instituted a new Patient Request for Access form for release of protected health information (PHI). To request medical records, patients may choose the Patient Request for Access Form or write a letter with the required elements. Under HIPAA, providers may no longer require patients or their representatives to fill out the Authorization for Disclosure form to get copies of their records. Staff members are responsible for having the most current version of the Patient Request for Access form. To access the form or to get more information visit Medical Records at Swedish.org.
Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Actions
The P&T Consensus newsletter details the committee’s decision and timely implementation of endorsed, system-wide therapeutic initiatives to promote appropriate, safe and effective prescribing practices. The October issue details the recent actions of the committee on non-formulary medications, treatment of adult anaphylaxis/hypersensitivity, methotrexate hard stop alert for non-oncology use, and the use of pill cutters. Visit Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee at Swedish Online for more information.

Sorin heater-cooler device update
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an advisory about a potential risk for infection linked to bacterial contamination of certain heater-cooler devices (specifically Sorin Stocker 3T devices). These devices are used in conjunction with cardiopulmonary bypass machines during cardiac surgeries. To date, no patients at Providence, Swedish or Kadlec have been identified as having developed an infection as a result of one of these devices. We are following the situation closely.

Swedish Scientific Showcase
In addition to their clinical excellence, Swedish medical professionals conduct groundbreaking research and publish in key scientific journals. Let us give your hard work the recognition and respect it deserves. When your papers are accepted for conference presentation and/or publication, send the citation to accolades@swedish.org. Swedish Research Division will then highlight your publications in the monthly board report and other venues including our webpage and annual report.

Welcome New Medical Staff Members
Welcome practitioners who joined the Swedish medical staff in October.

LEADER NOTES

Medical Staff Unification—This is Our Opportunity by John Vassall, M.D., chief medical officer
The medical staffs of First Hill/Ballard/Cherry (FBC) and Issaquah are now considering an important vote—unification to a single medical staff. The outcome of this vote will determine how strong a voice the medical staff will have in the future of Swedish. Voting is currently underway at FBC via electronic ballot and members at Issaquah will be voting at the medical staff meeting Dec. 1. All Active medical staff members are encouraged to cast their vote. Continue reading.

KUDOS

Sandeep Sachdeva, M.D., vice president of medical affairs, Swedish Edmonds, was recently awarded the 2016 Washington Leadership Excellence Award by the National Diversity Council. This award is given out annually to individuals who have not only achieved personal success, but have driven change and innovation in their fields while inspiring others to succeed. Dr. Sachdeva will be recognized at the 2016 Washington Diversity & Leadership Conference to be held Nov. 17 in Seattle.

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.” See, for instance, “Code Purple: Missing Adult Patient.”
CME

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

Nov. 4  Orthopedics Symposium for the Primary-Care Physician: Arthritis Update - When the Mind Says "Yes" but the Body Says "No"

Nov. 18  13th Annual PsychoOncology Symposium: The Bond - Attachment Dynamics in Clinical Practice

Jan. 27-28  Pediatric Metabolic Health & Nutrition Summit

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, internet 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.

And So Forth...

Medical Staff Meeting

Included in the agenda will be a presentation and discussion of the proposal to unify the FBC and Issaquah medical staffs. Voting on that question is now underway at FBC. The Issaquah medical staff will vote at its quarterly meeting to be held Dec. 1. Physicians who are Active members at each of the two medical staffs should vote in both elections. For more information visit the election page.

Also on the agenda will be a vote on one minor amendment to the bylaws relating to the deposit of application fees.
Admitting and Consulting Specialties Guide  
For each campus, the Guide includes:

- Admitting specialty and consulting specialty services available for adults and pediatrics
- Specific adult inpatient ancillary services available, and
- Specific patient population exclusions

You may navigate to the link anytime on the Swedish on-call schedules page.

Medical Staff Unification

If you are a member of both medical staffs you should vote in each election—unification will only happen if approved with at least two-thirds margin at both FBC and Issaquah.

Why is this initiative important?

*Integrating best practices across Swedish.* Our patients have come to expect the same high quality care and a high quality experience whenever and wherever they enter a Swedish facility. Similarly, members of the medical professional staff should be able to expect that their professional performance will be judged fairly and consistently and that best practice standards and expectations are the same at every campus where they treat patients. The "Swedish 5 Bests" apply uniformly to all Swedish campuses and the medical staff should be working systematically to reach those goals since they cannot be reached independently.

*Putting medical staff leaders at the forefront of quality improvement system-wide and at each campus.* The proposed unified bylaws put quality improvement at the center of medical staff organization. For example, we borrowed the idea of quality councils from Edmonds and are recommending each campus join medical staff and administrative leadership together to drive system-wide quality improvement at each campus.

*Recognizing the critical role of advanced practice clinicians by extending them membership.* Modern medicine is the ultimate team sport. Physicians cannot deliver best care and best patient experience without working side-by-side with other medical professionals. Our advanced practice clinician colleagues (ARNPs, CNMs, CRNAs, and PACs) play a critical role at Swedish and are essential partners in care delivery and quality improvement. This initiative recognizes their importance by extending medical professional staff membership to these important medical professionals.

*Strengthening our voice at a time when healthcare is evolving rapidly.* There are many voices seeking to tell physicians how to practice including Leapfrog, CMS, insurance companies and advocacy organizations. Patients and the public at large have a legitimate right to hold us accountable for the care and results we deliver. In order to be accountable and to answer those public questions, we as a group of medical professionals need collectively to determine best practices and to speak in one voice.

What can you do?

*Get involved.* As we transition into a new, unified structure we will need more medical staff leadership. If you are interested in leadership at your campus, please make your interest known to the vice president for medical affairs or current MEC members. Under the new bylaws once adopted, we will need to develop mechanism to allow the quality councils to work very closely with the campus medical leadership committees, and to allow medical leadership to work closely with administrative leadership. I urge you to join the dialogue and to cast your vote in favor of medical staff unity.