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HEALTH e-NEWS+

Daily news from the Ohio Hospital Association

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Monday, February 9, 2009

Trauma Triage Creates New Category for Geriatric Patients

Ohio's rules for trauma triage now have a separate category for geriatric patients, which became effective Dec. 29, 2008. A recommendation to treat geriatric patients, anyone 70-years-old or above, as a distinct population was made during the 2008 review required by the Ohio State Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The main cause for the separation is that elderly patients have worse outcomes than younger trauma patients with similar injuries, and trauma patients have a better chance of recovery at a trauma center. Before the new distinction, age was only a factor in treatment.

OHA voiced concerns about over-triage and the lack of an accurate fiscal impact statement throughout the past year as the proposed rule moved through the rulemaking process. A copy of the complete trauma triage rules is available at [OHA's Web site](#) and more information on the changes can be found at [EMS' Web site](#). For comments or questions, e-mail [Timothy Erskine](#), chief of trauma systems and research at the Ohio Department of Public Safety or [Bridget Gargan](#), vice president of state policy and advocacy at OHA. ([Bridget Gargan](#))

ODH Sets 2009 Medical Record Copying Fees

As required by Ohio statute, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has determined what hospitals can [charge](#) during 2009 for providing medical records. Total costs for providing medical records to a patient or patient's personal representatives may not exceed \$2.84 per page for the first 10 pages, 59 cents per page for pages 11 through 50, and 24 cents per page after page 50. For data recorded other than on paper, the maximum charge may be \$1.94 per page. The actual cost of postage may be charged.

For a request made by someone other than the patient or patient's representative, an initial fee of \$17.48 may be charged to compensate for the records search. With respect to data recorded on paper, a hospital may charge \$1.15 per page for the first 10 pages, 59 cents per page for pages 11 through 50, and 24 cents per page for pages numbering more than 50. Data recorded other than on paper may be charged at \$1.94 per page, and the actual postage cost may be charged. ([Rick Sites](#))

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Ohio EMS Sets April 1 Grant Deadline

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is seeking grant applications for the 2009-2010 grant year. The Training and Equipment (Priority 1) grant application is available online at the [Ohio Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Web site](#). Hard copy applications for the Injury Prevention Research (Priority 2) and Trauma Research (Priority 3 and 4) grants are also available at the [EMS Web site](#). There are no electronic applications for these grants. Applications must be postmarked by April 1 at 5 p.m. No late applications will be accepted and grant applicants completing hard copy applications must provide proof of eligibility. The grant period for all applications is July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

Priority 1 grants are for the training of personnel and purchasing of equipment. Only eligible EMS agencies may apply. Priority 2 grants are for injury prevention research and Priority 3 is for rehabilitation, retraining and reemployment of trauma victims. Lastly, Priority 4 is for trauma research pertaining to trauma medical procedures. All entities are eligible for Priorities 2, 3 and 4. Please contact EMS grants administration at 1.800.233.0785 with any questions regarding the grant application process.

RAC Rollout Back in Motion

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced Friday it is lifting its hold on the rollout of the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) project. Two companies that protested the November 2008 RAC awards will become subcontractors to the four permanent, regional RACs. PRG-Schultz has been named as a subcontractor to three RACs, including CGI Technologies, the Region B contractor that includes Ohio. It is not known whether PRG-Schultz will play any role in the Ohio operation, nor it is clear how the delay will affect the fall 2009 scheduled rollout of the Region B RAC. OHA will schedule an educational program later this year with CMS and CGI to include provider outreach and operational details once more is known. View the American Hospital Association memo on [RAC status](#) or it [RAC Web page](#). Look for ongoing updates on OHA's [Finance Web site](#). ([Charles Cataline](#))

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ohio Hospital Community Mourns Loss

The OHA Board of Trustees and OHA staff are deeply saddened by the death of Kevin Martin, president and CEO of EMH Regional Healthcare System in Elyria. Kevin fought a valiant crusade against cancer, never allowing his positive attitude to falter. He passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by family.

Kevin's service on the OHA Board dates back to 2002 as a trustee and more recently as an officer and chair of the Board in 2008. He will be remembered for his outstanding legacy as a great friend to and supporter of OHA and its subsidiary OHA Insurance Solutions. As chair of OHA's Medical Professional Liability Committee, Kevin was instrumental in the decision to start the company and continued this support through his work as an OHA Holdings board member. Our condolences go out to his family and to all those at the health care system.

Visitation:

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6-8 p.m.
and Friday, Feb. 13, 3-8 p.m.

Chambers Funeral Home
4420 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH
216.251.6566

Mass:

Saturday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.

St. Raphael Church
525 Dover Center Rd.
Bay Village, OH

Contributions may be made to The Kevin C. Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund/St. Edward High School, 13500 Detroit Road, Lakewood, OH.

Ohio Tobacco Money Remains Frozen

The Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation (OTPF) funds withdrawn by the state last year remain frozen after a Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge this week granted a preliminary injunction. In an effort to protect its funds from being tapped by legislative leaders and the governor's office last year, OTPF entered into an agreement to transfer the money to the American Legacy for use on other tobacco-prevention efforts. The American Legacy filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the state of Ohio from taking the funds, and this week's ruling means the case is not dismissed and could go to trial. A trial on the merits of the case has been scheduled for April unless the governor's office chooses to appeal the injunction decision. ([Stacey Conrad](#))

Ohio Launches Site for Federal Stimulus Package

Ohio launched its [recovery Web site](#) Tuesday, which serves as the state's interactive headquarters for information regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Notification sign-ups for Web site updates are available now and information about upcoming technical assistance options, important links to other sites and further updates will be posted regularly.

The site also features an area to submit project information on ideas for using federal stimulus dollars. Entities

are asked to use the form on this Web site, even if ideas were already submitted in another manner. This ensures a transparent and consistent process to build a database of potential projects. Once the federal stimulus bill is finalized, those who have submitted forms regarding projects that meet eligibility requirements will receive an e-mail indicating where, when and how to apply for funds.

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Ohio Hospital Safety Campaign Kicks Off

OHA has launched its annual Ohio Hospital Safety Campaign – an opportunity for hospitals to receive recognition for excellent workplace safety. The campaign was created in 1953 by OHA and the Industrial Commission of Ohio. Hospitals are asked to submit 2008 safety data from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to OHA by March 9. Governmental hospitals should submit the Ohio Department of Commerce Public Employment Risk Reduction Program form.

Hospitals with the best safety records will receive awards and all participants will receive certificates. Winners will also be recognized for their outstanding safety records at the Welcome and Keynote Address on the first day of OHA's 2009 Annual Meeting June 15 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. Download the [application for participation](#) and find more information on the safety awards. ([Rhonda Major-Mack](#))

Dementia Took Kit Available for Staff Education

The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP) is offering [a tool kit](#) to raise awareness for Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week, Feb. 14-21. The resources stress the importance of training and certifying staff educators in dementia care and offer a comprehensive dementia education to all health care professionals. The kit includes a free PowerPoint for health care staff, tests and answers, and seminar evaluations and certificates. Other resources available are ways to recognize Alzheimer's and dementia, a list of movies and books about Alzheimer's, and contest entry forms for staff education week.

There are currently no national standards for dementia education, which differ from state to state. The NCCPD recommends a minimum of eight initial hours of dementia education to all staff. Throughout the year, additional dementia education should be provided that incorporates new advances, culture change and innovative ideas. For more information and a full list of tool kit resources, visit [NCCDP's Web site](#).

Feb. 24 Webinar to Review Implications of Employee Free Choice Act

The American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA) will host a two-hour webinar Feb. 24 to discuss the Employee Free Choice Act. Presenters Jim Trivisonno, president of IRI Consultants, and Roger King, a partner at Jones Day law firm, will help hospital leaders understand the implications of this act and other legislation and regulations affecting the labor environment. The webinar is free to ASHHRA members and \$99 for non-members. Visit ASHHRA's Web site [for more details](#) and [registration information](#).

Friday, February 13, 2009

Law Denying Health Coverage to Patients Under Influence Repealed

The Ohio legislature voted to repeal the state's Uniform Individual Accident and Sickness Policy Provision (UPPL) Law, which allowed insurers to deny health coverage to individuals injured while under the influence of alcohol. Gov. Ted Strickland signed the measure into law Jan. 5. Advocates of addiction screening and brief intervention programs have lobbied for the repeal of such laws across the U.S., saying the laws deter doctors from screening patients for alcohol problems out of fear their health care claims will be denied. Ohio is the 15th state to repeal its UPPL law. The UPPL repeal was included in a bill dealing with medical billing and the language was supported by OHA, the Ohio State Medical Association, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

Ohio J-1 Visa Waiver Program Accepting 2009 Applications

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is accepting applications for the J-1 Visa Waiver Program for primary care placements within Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) on a rolling basis up to June 30. Applications for non-primary care specialties and any placements outside of HPSAs must be submitted by

March 20 and May 1. The J-1 Visa Waiver Program allows foreign medical graduates to remain in the U.S. after completing residency/fellowship training in exchange for a three-year commitment to provide health care services in HPSAs or Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Qualified international graduates granted waivers must serve full-time in a clinical capacity and provide health care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay.

The program is open to all physician specialties, with a preference for primary care physicians. Applications are accepted only from sponsoring health care facilities, which must submit a non-refundable application fee of \$3,571. For more information on the application and review process, visit the [Ohio State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Director's Policy and Procedures](#). Visit OHA's Web site for a [2009 J-1 Visa Waiver Application Packet](#).

IRS Releases Report on Hospital Community Benefit, Exec Compensation

The Internal Revenue Service released a [final report](#) on its 2006 survey of not-for-profit hospitals, finding that the nearly 500 hospitals surveyed dedicated an average 9 percent of total revenues to community benefit. The report cautioned that attempts to set a percentage threshold for determining compliance with community benefit "could have disproportionate impacts on hospitals, depending upon their size, where they are located, their community benefit mix, and other hospital and community demographics." The survey also examined executive compensation practices and found nearly all salaries surveyed were "within the range of reasonable compensation." ([Mary Gallagher](#))