

To the Point



From the desk of
Victoria Walker MD, CMD
Chief Medical and Quality Officer
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Medical Director in the Spotlight

Dr. Steve Schroeder is the medical director in two Good Samaritan Society locations in South Dakota: De Smet and his hometown of Miller. Dr.



Schroeder brings a valuable perspective to his work, as he has also been the medical director of the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, the Quality Improvement Organization/Quality Innovation Network (QIO-QIN) since

2005. He is active with the SD Medical Directors Association and AMDA, receiving his Certified Medical Director (CMD) status last year. The Society is grateful for his depth of understanding in quality improvement, and for his collaborative approach.

Clinical Corner

Antibiotic stewardship has never been more important, as we see the evolution of bacteria that are resistant to all known antibiotics. It is well documented that residents in nursing homes are often prescribed antibiotics for questionable indications. Frequently, this is done “just in case” to reassure concerned family members or staff. Encourage your QAPI committee to actively monitor [antibiotic stewardship](#).

Prescriber's Corner: Food as Medicine

Food is central to our celebrations, and social gatherings, and it comforts in times of sorrow or stress. We are often asked to order specific diets to address clinical concerns, such as diabetes or dysphagia. It is important to consider quality of life and balance the risks and benefits when considering interventions like thickened liquids and restrictions on sugar or salt. The resident and their family should be involved in making sure your orders are consistent with their goals of care.

AMDA Update

Have you ever found yourself sitting through a CME course, and found it lacking in addressing the complexity of medical decision making required for your geriatric population? AMDA has developed new curriculum that focuses on the clinical competencies needed when caring for the very complex residents that reside in nursing homes. [Link to the curriculum](#)

Efficiency of Electronic Medical Record

Good Samaritan Society now has 16 locations using the electronic signature function for their medical providers, accessible off-site. To join the group, let your local administrator and director of nursing know. This is a NO CHARGE feature, and can significantly decrease the faxes that get sent, and documents that must be scanned. It saves time and money for both the doctor's office and the center.

Become a Certified Medical Director

A portion of the Core Curriculum is now available online, making it more convenient to complete. The Society will reimburse up to \$4,000 of expenses for medical directors to become certified. Invest in your career development. [Click here](#) to start the application.

Almost Here – PBJ Reporting

In August 2016, every nursing home will have to report the number of hours their medical director spends on their administrative duties to CMS. Your administrator will be working with you to collect this information in a streamlined manner. Thank you for your cooperation.

Questions? Contact Dr. Walker at
vwalker3@good-sam.com or 605-352-3314.

Our vision: To create an environment where people are loved, valued and at peace.

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