

To the Point



From the desk of
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Chief Medical and Quality Officer
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Standing Orders

We will be doing “maintenance work” to update the standing orders. Please contact me at vwalker3@good-sam.com with suggestions for additions, or if you would like to participate in the review committee.

Influenza Season

We are making a special effort to protect residents by **vaccinating all employees**. Please encourage your administrator and director of nursing services (DNS) to prioritize this, and ask about progress.

Off-Site Access to Records and Signing Orders

Remote access to PointClickCare with the Practitioner Engagement feature enabled can significantly improve the efficiency of work for medical providers and consultants caring for residents at the Good Samaritan Society. This functionality is **now available**. Talk to your health information management (HIM) coordinator and ask to have this access. What could be a better gift for the holidays than fewer faxes on your desk?

PBJ Impact on Medical Directors

Always creative with their acronyms, the PBJ requirement that CMS has mandated starting in July 2016 is not as tasty as it sounds. Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) refers to mandatory reporting of direct care staff member hours, including medical directors. Because medical directors are contracted, not employees, we need to restructure our contracts and develop a timelog system that will allow us to comply with this regulation. What will this mean for you? We are working on creating a seamless (and hopefully, painless) process for compliance. Watch for more information on this topic.

Antibiotic Stewardship

A common approach to non-specific physical symptoms is “let’s start an antibiotic just to be on the safe side – what harm can it do?” There is good evidence that this approach can cause a lot of harm, including secondary infections, multidrug antibiotic resistance and side effects that can range from nuisance to lethal. During this season of “respiratory crud,” please collaborate with nursing home staff members to adhere to established criteria for treatment with antibiotics. **Click here** to access the Minimum Criteria for Initiation of Antibiotics in Long-Term Care Residents document.

Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations

INTERACT is an approach for nursing homes to improve communication around care of residents and reduce avoidable adverse events and hospitalizations. Please ask your DNS and administrator how you can help them incorporate these tools. **Click here** to view INTERACT: What Medical Directors Need to Know.

Become a Certified Medical Director

The Core Curriculum is now available online, making it more convenient than ever to become certified. The Society will reimburse up to \$4,000 of expenses for a medical director to become certified. **Click here** to access the grant application. This is a great way to invest in your career development.

Quality Assurance Performance Improvement

(QAPI) is having a positive impact on the quality of care delivered. Thank you for all you do to support the team!

Questions/Comments? Please contact me directly at vwalker3@good-sam.com or (605) 362-2214.

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

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