

To the Point



From the desk of
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August 2018



Stronger Together Update

We previously shared that the boards of the Good Samaritan Society and Sanford Health approved pursuing steps to affiliate. The agreement is now under regulatory review, and it is uncertain how long this will last. We will share additional information with you as it is available. In the meantime, both organizations have committed to a [covenant](#) that sets the stage for future collaboration. I am confident that through forward-thinking collaboration, the Society will continue to share God's love through caring relationships well into the future.

Pharmacy Update

We are working to partner more with our consultant pharmacists in ways that support your work as medical director. A core task performed by consultant pharmacists is observation and education of the medication administration process, ensuring that prescribed medications are given in a safe and effective manner. As of Aug. 1, we are requesting feedback from each consultant completing this task, on how our team is performing with medication administration.

We know routine recommendations written by consultant pharmacists, particularly gradual dose reduction requests, can be frustrating. We are encouraging our consultant pharmacists to better connect with you and other prescribers during their monthly visits to our centers. Please welcome this connection and use it to help build a stronger partnership.

Influenza...already?!

It is not too early to plan how you will keep influenza at bay during the 2018–2019 flu season. Now is a great time to check in with your location's administrator, director of nursing services and infection preventionist to discuss last year's vaccination rates of employees and residents, and think about how to improve them. The Society is setting a goal of achieving 95 percent resident

immunization and 75 percent employee immunization, but this can only happen with a lot of teamwork across all our locations.

Prevention of Avoidable Hospital Transfers

We all want to provide the best care possible to the residents who live with us. Your insight and leadership are truly important in helping us improve our care processes.

There are **three things** that I am asking you to do:

1. Carefully review the Consultant Pharmacist's notes and work collaboratively to de-prescribe unnecessary medications, find the lowest effective doses and institute monitoring protocols for high-risk medications.
2. Discuss Quality Improvement (QI) Reviews of hospital transfers with our employees. They should be doing a QI Review shortly after transfers to the hospital and identifying opportunities for improvement.
3. Report that you are doing these activities when you submit hours for reimbursement and payroll-based journaling to your administrator.

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and LTC Medicine

Don't forget to take advantage of your AMDA membership! This is an awesome place to get FREE continuing education that will make a difference in work you do every day. [Click here](#) to learn how to access this. Remember, the Society helps cover costs to [become a certified medical director](#), so please consider taking advantage of this exceptional professional development opportunity.

Questions? Email ywalker3@good-sam.com.

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

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