

To the Point



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



Medical Director in the Spotlight

Dr. Hosam Kamel, “Sam” is a geriatrician who has served the Hot Springs, AR community since 2004. He brings a wealth of expertise in geriatrics and hospice and palliative care to the Society. Dr. Kamel has been an active leader in AMDA, serving on the editorial board for JAMDA and contributing to 23 clinical practice guidelines. He has published widely in textbooks and peer reviewed journals. Dr. Kamel’s advocacy for reducing avoidable rehospitalizations and providing individualized care is much appreciated!



Clinical Corner: Adverse Events

It is an unfortunate reality that adverse events in long term care are all too frequent. We all have a role to play in creating safe environments and systems. One of the highest risk times for errors is during times of transition. A careful review of the new admission can save untold suffering; as the medical director, important safety processes that you can encourage include:

1. Critically review medications; discontinue or taper medications without a clear indication
2. Ask the consultant pharmacist to review new admissions
3. See new admissions as soon as possible
4. Collaborate with community partners to make sure critical medical records are accessible when needed

Welcome to New Medical Directors

Dr. Eyad Kakish, in Omaha NE
Dr. Giovanna Garcia in Greeley CO
Dr. Michael Lampe in Algona IA
Dr. Richard Day in Lennox SD
Dr. Mordechai Lederman, now serving in West Union as well as Postville IA

Prescriber’s Corner: Pain

Studies show that pain is generally poorly treated in the long term care environment. The number of residents with poorly controlled pain is one of the Quality Measures that a facility is judged upon. Your QAPI team should be reviewing reports of how many residents report severe pain, if there is a problem noted, your leadership can be very helpful in creating a plan to improve pain management. An understanding of etiology, exacerbating and relieving factors, and historical response to interventions will guide both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical treatments. Narcotics can be useful, but always be very cautious to START LOW, GO SLOW and REASSESS frequently. Elderly opioid-naïve people, particularly those with dementia, are vulnerable to opioid delirium and constipation.

AMDA Update

Chris Laxton, the Executive Director of AMDA, will be joining Dr. David Brechtelsbauer during the Society’s Annual Operations Conference in June to visit with the Society’s administrators. The focus will be on creating collaborative relationships to ensure that residents and patients receive top notch care.

Society Updates

The Society is currently conducting pilot projects of on-site automated dispensing units and electronic health record (PCC)/pharmacy integration. The lessons learned from these pilots will help improve the efficiency and access of pharmacy interactions and patient care.

Suggestions? Contact me at vwalker3@good-sam.com

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

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