



M E D I C A L S T A F F B R I E F S

DIGNITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE JUSTICE

A Publication from the Chief of Staff

September 29, 2014

Bylaws Review and Feedback Requested

Medical Staff Bylaws revisions are complete. Medical Staff members are asked to review the bylaws in the next couple weeks and submit any suggestions for change to the Medical Staff Office. Suggestions will be reviewed and the final bylaws will be sent to the Board for approval. Thank you for the time taken to review these important documents, found at <https://www.sjo.org/documents/090304-Master-Draft-Bylaws-Articles-1-16.pdf>

Covered California: Know Your Participation Status

The California Medical Association (CMA) surveyed physicians in April about their contracting experience with Covered California plans. Eighty percent of respondents reported confusion about their participation status in a Covered California plan and believed such confusion had negatively impacted patient care.

Unfortunately, checking your practice's participation status is not as straightforward as it might seem. Plagued with inaccuracies, Covered California took down its cross-plan provider directory earlier this year. As some exchange plans have used vague contract terms and amendments that lock physicians into participating in their exchange networks, often without their express consent or knowledge, "do you take my insurance" is not always an easy question to answer.

If you have questions about your practice's participation status, contact the plan directly. Physicians experiencing difficulties finding in-network providers to whom they can refer patients can contact CMA's physician helpline at 888-401-5911 or economicservices@cmanet.org.

Celebration 2014 Coming Saturday, October 25

Join us at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa for a wonderful Celebration with live music and entertainment by Grammy-nominated artist Jewel, benefiting SJO's Nursing Excellence Program. Call 714-347-7900 or visit www.sjo.org/celebration2014.

Hydrocodone Combination Products Become Schedule II

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced it is rescheduling all hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) from federal Schedule III to federal Schedule II, effective October 6, 2014.

This change will impact how hydrocodone combination products are prescribed and dispensed in California. Federal requirements for prescribing and dispensing Schedule II controlled substances will apply to all HCPs. This means, among other things, a very limited ability to orally prescribe HCPs and ability to authorize refills.

HCPs have been controlled in Schedule III since the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) enactment in 1971. HCPs are the country's most frequently prescribed opioid, with almost 137 million HCP prescriptions dispensed in 2013.

DEA is also permitting legitimate HCP prescriptions issued before October 6, 2014, to be refilled until April 8, 2015, if the prescription authorizes refills.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Final Rule, and its supporting documents (i.e., medical and scientific evaluations and economic impact analysis) may be viewed online at www.regulations.gov, Docket No. DEA-389. Alternatively, the documents can be obtained on the DEA website at www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

West Nile Virus Vigilance

Orange County continues to see record high levels of West Nile Virus (WNV) activity. Avoiding mosquito bites is the best way to prevent WNV infection. For information on prevention and a list of effective mosquito repellents, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/prevention/index.html>.

– Orange County Health Care Agency

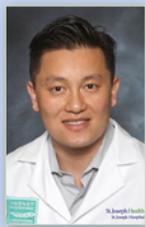
Welcome, New Medical Staff Members



Parveen Vora, MD, Family Medicine

Dr. Vora is board certified in family medicine and practices in Garden Grove with St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group.

Dr. Vora received her medical doctorate degree at Rush University College of Medicine in Chicago, IL, and completed residency training at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Dr. Vora's special interests include women's health, integrative and holistic medicine and diabetes.



Christopher C. Ninh, MD, Orthopedic Surgery

A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Ninh has offices in Irvine and Fountain Valley. He received his undergraduate and medical degree at the University of California, Irvine. After his general orthopedic residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Michigan, he completed a sports medicine fellowship at Kaiser Permanente Southern California. Dr. Ninh specializes in minimally invasive arthroscopic surgeries and total joint replacements including Direct Anterior Hip Replacement.



SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT:

Please send your news items to F: (714) 744-8670 T: (714) 771-8075

In the Trenches: Amer E. Jabara, MD, Medical Director, Renal Services



New CDC research shows that 40 percent of United States adults will develop diabetes, primarily type 2, in their lifetime. How is SJO addressing this trend?

We suspect the high demand for chronic

kidney disease treatment is related to the diabetes epidemic. Our Renal Services Program is already one of the largest full service renal programs in Orange County. It continues to grow in providing the complete gamut of adult and pediatric inpatient and outpatient services, all under the same umbrella. We have two flourishing hemodialysis centers, in Orange and Santa Ana. We provide plasmapheresis for patients in the hospital, and our services are complemented by our highly acclaimed KidneyTransplant Center.

While we are gearing up to deal with more chronic kidney disease patients, our specialty is doing a lot of work around delaying or halting progression of the

disease. Successful treatment requires early identification and a joint effort between primary care physicians and nephrologists to manage those patients. For example, when patients' disease progresses toward dialysis, they tend to do much better if they are prepared, rather than forced into it by a sudden hospitalization.

Home dialysis services are another growing component of our program. With newer, easier-to-use machines for peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis, this alternative is becoming more interesting to patients seeking a better quality of life.

What's most impressive about SJO's Kidney Services?

Our quality indicators can go up against anyone's, and I attribute that to our staff. We have some of the most experienced nurses and dialysis technicians you can find, anywhere.

What's important to you outside of work?

Spending time with my family – my wife, Cheryl, who is an internal medicine physician, and our boys, ages 15 and 18.

Vote No on Props 45, 46

“Proposition 45 would derail California’s successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act by disrupting Covered California.”

– Dr. Marty Gallegos, Senior Vice President, Hospital Association of Southern California

“Prop. 45 would also change the three-panel commission on insurance to a one-person insurance panel.”

– Lawrence Ehrlich, DO Chief of Staff

“...Prop. 46 will lead to more lawsuits and higher health care costs, threaten people’s access to their trusted doctor or clinic, and jeopardize people’s personal prescription drug information.”

- No On 46 Campaign