Attention Clinicians – Important E-Prescribing Information:

Please read the information below about upcoming E-Prescribing enhancements for UTMB’s Meaningful Use (MU) that will be implemented in the EHR on May 31, 2011. The new tools are designed to improve access to real-time patient drug and payer information, to increase workflow efficiency, and to reduce drug costs. For your convenience, an E-Learning module has been created to demonstrate the new features (see link to module below). Your assistance in meeting MU standards for E-Prescribing is greatly appreciated.

E-Prescribing enhancements:

Providers will be able to view dispenses for prescriptions including those written by other providers and add those medications to the patient’s current medication list to ensure a more accurate list.

Up-to-date patient pharmacy benefit information will include co-pay, coverage and formulary information.

Medication alternatives appear to help providers reduce costs by suggesting medications that require a smaller co-pay or are more preferred based on the formulary.

E-Learning module demonstrating new features:

How to Access E-Prescribing-Payer E-Learning:

Login in to Blackboard: https://eclass.utmb.edu/
Select, UTMB Epic E-Learning from My Courses section
Select, E-Learning
Select, E-Prescribing-Payer

Community Health Fair at the Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes

Saturday, May 14, the Health System and Ambulatory Clinics hosted a Community Health Fair at the Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes to celebrate health, wellness and family. This fun-filled family event also celebrated the one year anniversary of the Specialty Care Center’s opening. In addition to free health screenings, the fair provided an opportunity for community members to meet health professionals and receive preventive medical information. There was also a wide array of children’s activities, including martial arts, gymnastics, cheer and dance performances as well as music and food.

Donna Sollenberger Walks a Mile in Your Shoes at TDCJ ICU and Triage

Donna Sollenberger, Executive Vice President and CEO of the UTMB Health System, recently spent time with the staff of the TDCJ Intensive Care Unit at UTMB’s TDCJ Hospital during her Walk a Mile in Your Shoes tour, in recognition of Nurses Week. Leading the tour was Marion Schnitz, who has been a nurse with UTMB for 10 years, the past two of which have been in the TDCJ ICU.

UTMB Correctional Managed Care is responsible for providing health-care services to nearly 80 percent of the inmates of the TDCJ (the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center at Lubbock cares for the remainder). Prisoners have access to the health services that UTMB provides, either at in-prison clinics or in “free world” UTMB clinics. Care at Hospital Galveston equates to approximately 1,900 outpatients and around 400 in-patients each month, providing UTMB with 25–30 percent of all its teaching cases.

“Teamwork is the most crucial part of working in the ICU. There are many unstable patients and major assessments have to be made while time is of the essence,” explains Marion.
There are also many additional challenges, such as requiring a very close security presence. Medical personnel treat offender patients just like any other patients, but the inmates must still wear restraints and cannot be treated or transported without a guard present.

“I definitely feel like I have to have a more heightened awareness of my surroundings than the average nurse,” says Marion, because any object, from scissors to computer cables, could potentially be dangerous. While some things can happen, “For the most part there’s nothing you wouldn’t see elsewhere.”

Working at TDCJ has some additional unique challenges. It’s a little noisier than one might experience in the free world, as noise echoes off the cinder blocks. In terms of patient care, one of the biggest challenges is simply the coordination of care between different care units statewide—in some cases, units utilize different non-interfacing software programs.

Like all of the areas of UTMB, the TDCJ ICU has unique differences, but the goal is still the same: providing patients with good care. Thank you to Marion and her team for allowing us to Walk a Mile in Your Shoes!

Hospital and Nursing Week Festivities

UTMB celebrated national nurses week and hospital week with various events on and off campus including a health walk, breakfast, a poster showcase, professional organizational booths and an award ceremony. Health System Leadership also visited various departments in a series, Walk a Mile in Your Shoes. Join us in celebrating all UTMB nurses!

Silent Angel Awards

The 2011 Silent Angel Award winners were announced during Nurses Week. The Silent Angel Award honors a licensed nurse in Galveston County whose compassion, caring and advocacy made a difference in the life of a patient, family or friend. Join us in congratulating them!


4TH Annual Academy of Master Teachers Education Symposium

The 4th Annual Academy of Master Teachers Education Symposium was held May 20 at the San Luis Convention Center, and is the culmination of a week’s worth of events dedicated to educators. The keynote address, “Reflective Teaching and Learning through the Continuum of Practice,” was given by Stephen Brookfield, PhD, an internationally acclaimed, award winning scholar and distinguished professor in adult education. UTMB Faculty and Trainees showcased educational-related research and educational projects.

June Health Observances

Month-long Observances

- Aphasia Awareness Month, Fireworks Safety Month, Eye Safety Month, Hernia Awareness Month, Home Safety Month, Men’s Health Month, Scleroderma Awareness Month, Vision Research Month

Other Health Observances

- June 1  Healthcare Recruiter Recognition Day
- June 5  Cancer Survivors Day
- June 5-11  Headache Awareness Week
- June 5-11  Vascular Nursing Week
- June 10-17  Nursing Assistants Week
- June 10  Career Nursing Assistants’ Day
- June 14  Blood Donor Day (World)
- June 14-18  Healthcare Risk Management Week
- June 13-19  Men’s Health Week
- June 19  National Sickle Cell Day
- June 27  National HIV Testing Day

Notices

The UTMB Blood Center-Dickinson will be permanently closed starting May 23. All donors and patients may go to the Blood Center at UTMB located in the John Sealy Annex, room 5.212. UHC parking garage construction recently began in the UHC parking garage to replace the existing elevators and to enclose the first floor elevator lobby. Both of the elevators will be unavailable for the duration of the project, and the current drop off/pick up area will be inaccessible. An alternate drop off/pick up area will be temporarily relocated in close proximity. There should be no impact to vehicular traffic; pedestrian traffic will continue to use the same route to and from the UHC. For the convenience of our patients, the Transportation Department will continue to offer shuttle service within the garage to and from the drop off/pick up area. The project completion date is projected for September 30.

Oliver Center seeking 2011 grant proposals

Application is available on iUTMB. For more information contact: Meredith Masel at mcmasel@utmb.edu