Mondays in March (and a Tuesday!) have concluded. The series of presentations held during the month of March served as a forum for UTMB executives to deliver updates to the university community on the institution’s progress midway through the fiscal year.

It also served as an opportunity for faculty, staff and others to learn more about The Road Ahead (UTMB’s strategic vision for 2012-2015), as it relates to our education, research and clinical service missions, and to the business and finance areas.

To review any of the presentations by Dr. Cary Cooper, Donna Sollenberger, William Elger or Dr. David Callender, please visit http://www.utmb.edu/mondays-in-march.
Milestone Reached!
We have passed the 25% Build Checkpoint and are fast approaching 50% completion - only two weeks away!

No Change to UTMB's ICD-10 Deadline
UTMB is moving at a steady pace toward our February 4, 2012 Go-Live deadline for UTMB Connect. While the national deadline is October 13, 2013, we want to ensure we have plenty of time to get make adjustments to the system and get acclimated to using it. This will ensure that we will be able to maintain and even enhance our revenue stream. As you may recall, we must be able to electronically bill using the new ICD-10 codes in our new Epic modules by that deadline or we cannot bill!

UTMB will maintain both its deadline and pace for ICD-10 conversion despite a recent Health and Human Services (HHS) announcement about potentially relaxing compliance.

HHS announcement:

What is the Access and Revenue Cycle Readiness (ARCR) program?
This program establishes operational leads responsible for ensuring the success of the implementation of the new system, including intelligent design and adoptable workflows. The members will also establish the appropriate metrics to monitor and thresholds for those areas to measure performance. The program provides training and tools that will allow the members to know how to respond if metrics exceed thresholds.

The ARCR program is a critical factor for a successful install and is designed to help speed the transition to the new system and return operations to “cruise control.”

ICD-10-PCS Coding Tip:
Third Character in Procedure Code
• The third character of the seven-digit procedure Medical/Surgical code is the root operation.
• 31 root operations match the specific objective of the procedure(s) performed and are divided into nine groups sharing similar traits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root Operation</th>
<th>What Operation Does</th>
<th>Objective of Procedure</th>
<th>Procedure Site</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXCISION</td>
<td>Takes out some/all of body part</td>
<td>Cutting out/ off without</td>
<td>Some of a body part</td>
<td>Breast lumpectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESECTION</td>
<td>Takes out some/all of body part</td>
<td>Cutting out/ off without</td>
<td>All of a body part</td>
<td>Total mastectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETACHMENT</td>
<td>Takes out some/all of a body part</td>
<td>Cutting out/ off without</td>
<td>Extremity only, any level</td>
<td>Amputation above elbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESTRUCTION</td>
<td>Takes out some/all of a body part</td>
<td>Eradicating without</td>
<td>Some/all of a body part</td>
<td>Fulguration of endometrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTRACTION</td>
<td>Takes out some/all of a body part</td>
<td>Pulling out or off without</td>
<td>Some/all of a body part</td>
<td>Suction D&amp;C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2012 President’s Cabinet Awards
Applications Now Available

THE UTMB HEALTH-GALVESTON COMMUNITY: BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

The President’s Cabinet Awards Committee seeks proposals for the 2012 President’s Cabinet Awards. The theme of this year’s awards is The UTMB Health–Galveston Community: Building our Future Together.

This theme explicitly recognizes the shared interests of the university and its surrounding community in promoting a vibrant and supportive environment on Galveston Island. Projects that mobilize the creativity, ingenuity, and dedication of the students, staff, and faculty of UTMB Health to benefit the community are especially encouraged.

Proposal applications available on the President’s Cabinet website:
http://www.utmb.edu/cabinet

Commission on Cancer Certifies UTMB Health as an Approved Cancer Program

On March 15, the Commission on Cancer certified UTMB Health as an Approved Cancer Program. The three-year approval award, with commendation, is a testament to UTMB’s commitment to providing quality care, ongoing improvement and public accountability for the care and service we provide to patients with cancer.

Institutions involved in the Commission on Cancer Approvals Program represent a broad-based network of comprehensive cancer programs that offer the entire spectrum of cancer control activities, from prevention to rehabilitation and long-term follow-up. Approved Programs annually diagnose and treat an estimated 80 percent of all new cancer cases.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to assure UTMB’s success on this survey!
UTMB’s First Year of Meaningful Use

UTMB’s first year of Meaningful Use reporting is in progress and data outcome analysis is underway. In order to successfully attest to Meaningful Use, UTMB must meet the minimum expectations for the core and menu objectives, and be able to report our performance for quality measures.

Initial reports for Eligible Hospital (EH) and Eligible Professionals (EP) are available and have been reviewed by members of the Quality of Care Committee and Department Leadership. In order to view your individual and department performance report, contact your Departmental Quality of Care Committee representative.

As of today, UTMB’s overall reporting outcomes show success in many areas of EH and EP reporting. However, in order to attest to Meaningful Use, the EH and each EP must meet the minimum expectations for 90 consecutive days on all Core and Menu Objectives. Meaningful Use Awareness Bulletins have been developed to guide you through improving performance.

Eligible Hospital Reporting

Report analysis has identified two specific areas of documentation that are in need of improvement for the Eligible Hospital: Problem List and Medication Reconciliation.

Eligible Professional Reporting

Four areas of documentation have been identified as needing improvement for the Eligible Professional: Problem List, Medication Reconciliation Smoking Status and After Visit Summary.

SHOUT OUTS!

UTMB is a contracted partner with Walker County Hospital District. The Office of County Affairs staff is responsible for coordinating patient appointments and helping patients access care at UTMB. Below is an email from employee at Huntsville Memorial Hospital to the Office of County Affairs staff:

“Thank you, all of you, for all you do. You may not realize it but you are the salvation for so many people who wouldn’t get care otherwise!”

Janie Pietramale, a volunteer in the OR Waiting Room, made a patient’s experience here at UTMB a very pleasant one. The patient’s mother said that Janie made her feel so comfortable, and also helped her out a lot.

“My dad is a diabetes patient new to the Stark Diabetes Center after many years with another doctor and facility. Both he and I are so happy and pleased with the Stark Center. Not only are we happy with his new doctor but I am especially pleased with how the office is run. Every one of my phone calls is handled so professionally, so friendly and with such efficiency. You make helping me care for my Dad easier and for that I’m grateful, so thank you very much!”

“Diamantina Luna (Environmental Services)

He said, “Carly was exceptional. During our time of need she was compassionate and present to help us without being overbearing. Without her it would have been much more difficult to go through this awful experience.” He also said Eric and Steve were very understanding of the family’s need to visit and they appreciated all their efforts in trying to save their loved one. The family was appreciative of the information given by Dr. Miryala and for his presence.”

Other positive mentions:

Diamantina Luna (Environmental Services)

LaTonia Rittenhouse, HUC; Mindi Marzouk, RN; Amy McVety, Nurse Manager; Brenda Fosseca, RN; Carmen Comeaux, RN; Cynthia Hughes, RN; Lanette Lashway, RN; Steve Quach, MD