

March
2009**REMINDER:
Sign up for E-sign**

So far 95 physicians have signed up for the electronic signature system and they are pleased with the results.

The electronic signature system allows physicians to review, edit and sign their transcribed reports from any computer with an Internet connection.

Utilizing electronic signature now will familiarize you with a digital environment and make the transition to electronic medical records (later this year) a smoother one.

Call Heather Lingbloom, HIM manager, at 425.640.4204 for more information or to sign up.



this issue

Death with Dignity Act **P.1**Doctor's Day Celebration **P.2**New Document Management System **P.3**New Medical Staff **P.4**

Stevens Hospital Elects to Not Participate in the Death with Dignity Act at this Time

The recent passage of Initiative 1000, the "Washington State Death with Dignity Act" (the "Act") has raised many questions for physicians, pharmacists, counselors, and hospitals statewide.

On February 27, 2009, after careful consideration, the Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners adopted a policy stating that Stevens Hospital will not participate under the Act at this time. Under the policy, Stevens Hospital physicians, employees, independent contractors and volunteers may not assist a patient in ending their own life on Stevens Hospital premises.

The Act is clear that no provider, including Stevens Hospital, is required to assist a qualified patient in ending their own life. Providers may participate in the Act outside of the hospital premises. The policy does not prevent a physician or provider at Stevens Hospital from providing information about the Act to a hospital patient when the patient requests information.

Stevens Hospital will continue to provide compassionate, high quality care to all our patients. Any patient wishing to receive life-ending medication while at Stevens will be assisted in transferring to another facility of their choice. The transfer will assure continuity of care.

All providers at Stevens Hospital are expected to respond to any patient's inquiry about life-ending medication with openness and compassion. Stevens Hospital believes our providers have an obligation to openly discuss the patient's concerns, unmet needs, feelings and desires about the dying process. Providers should seek to learn the meaning behind the patient's questions and help the patient understand the range of available options, including but not limited to comfort care, hospice care and pain control. Ultimately, the hospital's goal is to help patients make informed decisions about end-of-life care.

Home Sleep Study Option Now Available

If you have patients concerned about sleep issues but are apprehensive about an overnight sleep study, then you'll be glad to know there is a new choice that allows home testing. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) recently released new guidelines that allow home testing for obstructive sleep apnea and the Stevens Hospital Sleep Center is now offering this option.

The compact home testing kit monitors respiration, heart rate and other key functions while patients sleep in their own beds. The results from the test are then interpreted by an AASM-certified sleep specialist at the Sleep Center.

AASM guidelines state that not all patients will benefit from a home sleep test. If you have a patient concerned about sleep issues, a board-certified sleep specialist can determine the best way to evaluate their sleep issues. For more information about the home testing kits or the Stevens Hospital Sleep Center, contact Ed Grandbois, sleep center manager, at 425.640.4660.



The Stevens Hospital medical staff is an outstanding group of deeply respected professionals. They are recognized and trusted throughout the hospital and our community as a remarkable team, devoted colleagues that deliver on our mission every day.

Our physicians consistently apply their special skills and talents in a way that makes a life-changing and often a life-sustaining difference in

Thank You to Our Doctors on Doctor's Day

the health of patients and their families. In keeping with the spirit of this acknowledgement, we congratulate and thank you for your uncompromising commitment and dedication.

We are privileged to celebrate National Doctors Day with you on Monday, March 30th. A special breakfast and lunch will be served on that day between 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to

1:30 p.m. in the third floor Physicians Lounge. Our Physician Relations staff will be distributing a gift of appreciation to you during that week as we mark this special occasion.

A special ad (pictured above) will run in the local papers, Edmonds Enterprise and Edmonds Beacon, the week of March 25 to April 1.

Thank you again for all you do for Stevens.

Stevens Foundation Doing Good for Stevens Hospital

Every year the Stevens Foundation holds fundraising events and donation campaigns to provide funds for new equipment and hospital upgrades.

In past years, the foundation has helped to raise funds for the purchase of new digital mammography equipment and new cardiac monitoring devices.

The foundation's largest annual event is the Do Good Golf Classic. Held in September at the Mill Creek Country Club, the event raised \$60,000 for cardiac services last year.

Watch for information on this year's tournament to be held on September 14 and 15, it is sure to be a good time for all who participate.

This year the foundation will raise money for new ultrasound and diagnostic equipment for the hospital as well as upgrades to the Mother Baby Unit and ICU/PCU lounge.

Please contact Kit Massengale at 425.640.4068 for more information about the Stevens Foundation.

New Document Management System

Stevens recently implemented Enterprise Document Management (EDM), a new digital system for tracking and storing information, in all departments where patients enter the hospital: Emergency, Patient Access/Admitting, Physical Therapy, Sleep Center, Pavilion Radiology and Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbarics as well as Patient Financial Services.

EDM will digitally store certain patient registration information on a global level for the hospital rather than separately for each patient visit, reducing redundancy and expediting the registration process. Additionally it digitally captures signatures for consent forms and Message from Medicare forms; and processes insurance

remittances, making patient accounting much more efficient. This upgrade:

- Streamlines the hospital's document management system
- Expedites the patient registration process
- Lays a solid foundation for online / electronic medical records later this year

"The EDM project was very successful," said Robert Pageler, Stevens director of information technology and project manager for the upgrade project (Soarian). "This is the foundation for Soarian. We will build up from here." The next phases of the Soarian project will include a conversion to electronic medical records and implementation of the

completion management system.

The electronic medical records will be stored on an internal server and allow physicians and medical staff exclusive access through a physician portal.

Presently, a designated group of physicians is working with the Soarian project team to provide recommendations and feedback for the organization of the online medical chart.

The completion management system is a chart tracking system that will aid physicians in compliance with requirements for completion of their medical records from any computer.

CPDI CORNER: Improved Response Rate for Concurrent Queries

Accurately documenting medical conditions on charts:

- Supports high quality care
- Accurately reflects patient acuity levels
- Increases Medicare reimbursements

In February, the CPDI program saw a vigorous improvement in response rate by the physicians to the queries. A total of 191 concurrent reviews were conducted resulting in 50 encounters with queries. There was a 91 percent response rate to those queries from physicians.

February's Top Queries:

1. Renal failure
2. Sepsis
3. Documentation clarification
4. Pneumonia

Thank you to the medical and surgical staff for taking the time to respond to these queries.

Please contact Loree McGill, RN, CDS, CPDI program manager, at 425.640.4869 with any questions.

January 2009 Hospital Statistics

	January-09	January-08	%Change
Average Daily Census	99.1	101.2	-2%
Total ER Visits:	3,319	3,470	-4%
Total Surgeries:	380	382	-1%
Deliveries:	90	84	7%
Days of Cash:	34.4	28.4	21%

Newsletter Access

Vital Signs is available on our website.

Select "For Physicians" from left menu of our home page:
www.stevenshospital.org
then click "Printable Documents" on the right menu.

Contributions

Any medical staff member with an article or item for the newsletter should contact Jeryl Garrett at (425) 640-4038 or jgarrett@stevenshospital.org by the 1st of the month.

WELCOME New Stevens Medical Staff – February 2009

Name	Group	Specialty
Eric T. Harrington, D.O.	Edmonds Emergency Physicians	Emergency Medicine
James J. Lee, MD	TeamHealth Hospitalist group	Hospitalist
Atif M. Mian, MD	TeamHealth Hospitalist group	Hospitalist
Madhusudhan P. Reddy, MD	Radia Medical Imaging	Radiology
Christopher P. Wilson, MD	Stevens Hospital - Psychiatry Unit	Psychiatry
RETURNED FROM A LEAVE OF ABSENCE:		
Janet Trowbridge, MD, Ph.D.	Puget Sound Dermatology	Dermatology

To Admit a Patient to Stevens, Call 425.640.4444

To better serve our patients and providers, Stevens has established a new bed control service which provides:

- A designated phone line to initiate your direct admit process (above)
- Improved communication and bed coordination flow