

# MORNING CMO REPORT

08.12.2015

**FROM THE DESK OF:**  
Anthony P. Weiss, MD, Chief Medical Officer,  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs,  
Upstate University Hospital

**UPSTATE**  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

## Legionella

Applies to All Physicians

Legionella  
Advisory

Due to recent events in the Bronx, we recommend that health care providers maintain a high index of suspicion for legionellosis among all patients with pneumonia. In particular, patients being admitted from other hospitals and nursing homes with hospital acquired pneumonia, and patients who have high risk of legionella pneumonia including patients older than 50, current or former smokers, patients with chronic lung disease (like COPD or emphysema) and immunocompromized. In these patients we advise to check regular sputum cultures, Legionella urinary antigen and Legionella sputum cultures.

We continue to review advice from the NYDOH, and will provide further guidance as it becomes available. For further questions, please contact either Waleed Javid, MD, ([javidw@upstate.edu](mailto:javidw@upstate.edu) or at 4-5815) Hospital Epidemiologist, Downtown campus; or Mitchell Brodey, MD, ([brodeym@upstate.edu](mailto:brodeym@upstate.edu) or at 4-4480) Hospital Epidemiologist, Community campus.

## ICD-10

Applies to All Physicians

ICD-10  
Advisory

On Oct. 1, with the implementation of ICD-10, hospitals and providers face a substantial change in the way we code patients' medical information. This will require greater attention to detail in our documentation, so that the specificity our coders need can be found in our notes.

We often see very sick patients here at Upstate, and our documentation is the key component in verifying that. The records generated in the new ICD-10 system will be used to calculate a variety of statistics, ratings and payments - everything from quality of care to mortality rates to reimbursement rates.

This increased level of detail also relates, to a degree, to our ongoing process to provide thorough and accurate documentation of our patients' illnesses.

Upstate has prepared support tailored for this transition. Providers and non-providers are being contacted directly with appropriate resources and education. Upstate also has established a website with details on its trainings, as well as background information on the transition, and web-based resources that have been deemed useful by the ICD-10 transition committee. Visit: [www.upstate.edu/icd-10/](http://www.upstate.edu/icd-10/)

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Those of us who are directly involved in this coding change will be helping to uphold the overall reputation and smooth operation of Upstate University Hospital. These efforts by hundreds of providers, coders and billing staff ultimately touch everyone who works here.

I want you to thank you for your time and effort already put forth as we prepare to carry out this effort.

## Excessive Labs

[Applies to All Physicians](#)

Labs  
Informational

It has been brought to my attention that while charts were being reviewed from a Utilization Management standpoint, examples of labs being checked excessively due to the "until specified" feature of EPIC have surfaced. Examples seen include Ferritin, Vitamin b12 and HgA1c levels checked daily for over a week in separate charts. The worse example was daily Procalcitonin levels for over two weeks. This is very expensive. Although these typically one time per hospitalization labs should never be ordered "until specified" as discontinuing the order the next day could be forgotten, the "until specified" feature is helpful for other labs, such as CBCs and BMPs, when used judiciously.

Please review the lab orders daily on inpatients and their clinical necessity. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## Commission on Cancer 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award

[Applies to All Physicians](#)

CoC  
Informational

Upstate University Hospital was recently presented with the 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Upstate is one of an elite group of programs (only 20 U.S. health care facilities) nation-wide that has achieved the OAA in 2015. The award acknowledges cancer programs that achieve excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. The purpose of the award is to raise awareness on the importance of providing quality cancer care at health care institutions throughout the U.S. In addition, it is intended to:

- Motivate other cancer programs to work toward improving their level of care.
- Facilitate dialogue between award recipients and healthcare professionals at other cancer facilities for the purpose of sharing best practices.
- Encourage honorees to serve as quality-care resources to other cancer programs.
- Educate cancer patients on available quality-care options.

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It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the outstanding effort and commitment demonstrated by the entire cancer team for providing high quality cancer care to our patients and in meeting and exceeding the standards set by our Accreditation Program.



[Applies to All Physicians](#)

Icough  
Informational

As a Level I Trauma Center, verified by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), we are charged with meeting numerous standards to ensure that we can provide the optimal care and resources our patients need.

New requirements from the ACS includes that trauma centers must benchmark themselves against other institutions in an effort to improve patient outcomes. University Health System Consortium (UHC) 2014 data demonstrated a large number of reported cases of peri-operative pulmonary complications in our trauma population when compared to similar academic trauma centers in the state. In response to this, the Trauma Service has brought to Upstate a program created by Boston Medical Center called I-Cough.

This back to the basics program involves interventions that we are familiar with, including incentive spirometry, oral care, getting out of bed, head of bed elevated when in bed, coughing and deep breathing. The difference with this program is that the patient is given the keys to drive their care. They receive a booklet and education on admission with areas to document all of the above interventions. This key difference puts the patient and their family in the driver's seat with support from their nurses and physicians creating a sense of ownership in their care. Additionally, it provides the patient with guidance on continuing these very important actions after discharge.

This small but significant change has been documented to create significant improvement in pulmonary complications including pneumonia and PE, re-intubation rates and DVTs. With permission from Boston Medical Center, we have brought this program here to Upstate and individualized it to meet the needs of our patients, with the goal of having similar results. We began a 30 day trial on 8E and 5A with a plan to launch full scale on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The I-Cough

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program should be ordered by the care team in Epic, which will initiate the bedside teaching and delivery of the patient workbook.

For further information regarding lcough, please feel free to contact Jolene Kittle at [kittlej@upstate.edu](mailto:kittlej@upstate.edu) or extension 4-4773 or Kelly Czarnecki at [czarneck@upstte.edu](mailto:czarneck@upstte.edu) or at extension 4-1577.

## Outstanding Physician Comments

[Applies to All Physicians](#)

Comments  
Informational

Each week we receive written comments from our patients regarding the care we provide within the Hospital. Below are this week's comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:

**Inpatient Pediatrics** – Dr. Ajagbe and Dr. Schafer were very attentive

**Inpatient Pediatrics** – Dr. Stanger was excellent; she was everything we could have wanted.

**Adult Emergency Department** – Doctors very concerned and wanted for me to be comfortable

**Adult Emergency Department** - For what appeared to be a very busy Friday night, we were met with exceptional care and concern. Dr. Cherrington & Dr. Sadowitz were an amazing team. They set the tone for the procedure & gave us confidence in the medical team that cared for our son.

**UHCC – Neurology** – Dr. Mejico always has my best interest in mind.

**Joslin** – Dr. Feuerstein is the best!

Dr. Izquierdo is wonderful; always so caring and gentle.

**ENT** – Dr. Wood is very good at what he does.

**6B** – Dr. Changlai is very professional, very compassionate and very concerned for my well being.

**9E** – Dr. LaTorre and nurse Amanda are both extremely fantastic!

**10E** – Dr. Gentile is awesome.

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