Ebola Discussion

As announced, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has designated Upstate University Hospital as one of eight hospitals in the state to handle patients diagnosed with the Ebola virus.

In light of this, Upstate will hold forums for staff on Ebola preparedness Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. in room E12405 A/B at Upstate University Hospital's Downtown Campus. Dates for Community Campus forums will be announced when confirmed.

A special Ebola information website on Upstate’s iPage has been developed as a resource for all communications related to our Ebola preparedness. Other documents from the CDC and state Health Department are also on this site as well as general Ebola virus information. The link is available here: http://www.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/safety/ebola/

Additionally, Dr. Sexton from the Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care will be presenting a discussion on Ebola next Tuesday, 10/28/14 at 12:15PM in WKH 103. Please make every effort to attend to hear more about the clinical aspects of caring for people with EVD.

Patient Safety

We have seen recent safety events in which patients were affected by meds “falling off” the EPIC med list due to non-renewal. We have made changes to some medication classes, prolonging their duration, but regulations, and good clinical practice, preclude this for other classes. Daily physician attention to this is, therefore, critical.
Reviewing Medications

It is very important (and hospital policy) to review your patient’s medications (and other orders) daily. All orders are due next day. Some are 30 days, others are limited to 1 week or less due to regulatory requirements. Failure to review medication lists can result in patients missing important doses of medications or other orders. Epic makes it easy to determine which orders will expire in the next 48 hours and which have expired in the last 48 hours. Here is how to check.

Locations where Epic shows expired or expiring orders:

- Patient List:
  You can add a column to your patient lists that shows which patients have expiring orders. An icon (shown with an exclamation mark) indicates which patients have expiring orders nearing the end.

- Patient Summary: Overview Report
  This report has several sections to help review medication orders. First, it contains a section that shows all medications that have expired in the last 48 hours and those that will expire in the next 48 hours. This report also contains a report of all current medications the patient is on.

- Manage Orders
  The manage orders activity lists all current orders and recently completed orders. A check icon indicates medications that have or are about to expire.

There is also a link in the Manage Orders activity to show all medications that are going to expire in the next 48 hours or have expired in the previous 48 hours.

- MAR
  The MAR will show all schedule doses for each medication and the status of the medication.

ALERT: Highest priority emergency communication; warrants immediate action or attention by the recipient.

HIGH ADVISORY: High priority does not warrant immediate action but recipients should be aware.

ADVISORY: Provides very important information for a specific incident or situation that does not require immediate action.

UPDATES TO ALERTS AND ADVISORIES: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation unlikely to require immediate action.

INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE: Provides timely information, important for review or serves as a reminder for an action that should be taken.