

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM, Chief Medical Officer, Upstate University Hospital Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine



October 13, 2023

2023 Annual Education Due

By Medical Staff Services



Season *

Passing scores are 80% and above; please email medstaff@upstate.edu if you need the test reset.

Coffee with the CMO



Please join me for "Coffee with the CMO" at 7:30 am on:

October 24, 2023 Cancer Center Conference Room C1076 A/B/C November 28, 2023 Community Hospital Classroom A&B C0256

The format is Q&A. Coffee and breakfast snacks will be provided. Mark your calendar and email Darcy DiBiase, Primary Care Liaison, at DiBiaseD@upstate.edu to reserve your spot!

Flu Clinic Season is Here!

By Dr. Jarrod Bagatell

Help protect yourself, your patients, and your family by getting a flu shot! Employee/Student Health (ESH) flu vaccine clinics will be held on the following dates at the following locations:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	DESCRIPTION	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tuesday 10/17/2023	7 am – 4 pm	Staff/Students	Kinney Performance Center
Wednesday 10/18/2023	7 am – 3 pm	Staff/Students	Community Hospital, Community Room
Thursday 10/19/2023	9 am – 1 pm	Student/Faculty	Weiskotten Hall Library "Bubble Room"
		(Well-o-Ween)	
Tuesday 10/24/2023	7 am – 4 pm	Staff/Students	Kinney Performance Center
Friday 10/27/2023	7 am – 4 pm	Staff/Students	Kinney Performance Center
Monday 10/30/2023	7 am – 4 pm	Staff/Students	Kinney Performance Center

Anyone with a valid Upstate ID is welcome and encouraged to get vaccinated.

Get your shot without standing in a long line! Simply log on to the <u>ESH portal</u> and make your appointment or scan the QR code to sign on and sign up!







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COVID Vaccines Offered at Upcoming Flu Clinics

By Dr. Jarrod Bagatell

Employee/Student Health will offer the 23-24 Spikevax Moderna COVID vaccine by appointment at these flu clinics:

- Performance Center, 11th Floor of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital:
 - o Tuesday, October 17 from 7 am 4 pm
 - Tuesday, October 24 from 7 am 4 pm
 - Friday, October 27 from 7 am 4 pm
 - Monday, October 30 from 7 am 4 pm
- Community Room at Community Hospital:
 - Wednesday, October 18 from 7 am 3 pm

Appointments may be scheduled via the <u>Employee/Student Health portal</u> (click on COVID Vaccine Clinic). Walk-ins may be accepted based on supply and availability.

COVID vaccines from other manufacturers may be available at outpatient pharmacies. When vaccinated at a location other than Upstate, please upload your vaccine documentation via the Upstate iPage (click on red Upload Vaccine Information easy button at top of page).

A complete schedule of flu clinics and mobile carts is available on the <u>Employee/Student Health website</u>. Additional COVID vaccine clinics will be announced, depending on vaccine supply and availability.

IV Push/Medication Compounding Guidelines Update

By The Medication Safety Committee

The Medication Safety Committee has compiled a flyer (see attached) to summarize the new guidelines from the Institute of Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) and United States Pharmacopeia (USP) 797, which are required to be implemented by November 1, 2023. The flyer reviews three primary applicable guidelines for safe medication dilution and IV push administration that all healthcare professionals licensed to administer IV medications are responsible to incorporate into practice. For questions, please contact Scott Murray at murraysm@upstate.edu or 315-464-9927.

New Upstate Chaperone Policy

By Nancy Walklett

Upstate Medical University will implement a new policy in November 2023 on the use of chaperones during sensitive examinations or procedures, or when requested by any clinician or patient/patient decision maker. The new policy aims





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October 13, 2023

to provide a safe, comfortable, environment for patients, while also ensuring a positive experience for providers. In anticipation of its effect, please refer to the attached Upstate Provider Chaperone Guidelines for information related to this new policy.

Primary Care Education Session: Referrals for Cardiac Testing

By Darcy DiBiase

Primary Care Education sessions are held virtually on the second Wednesday of the month, from 12:15 pm - 1 pm, and are specifically designed for Upstate Primary Care Providers. Presenters offer a short clinical presentation with opportunities for questions and discussion. In addition, we review when and how to make the most efficient referral to improve patient care. These are not CME credit-bearing activities but are vital opportunities to connect with your Upstate colleagues and expand your knowledge as a patient care provider.

Future presentations (each with a unique link) include:

November 8, 2023: Connect Care at the Nappi Wellness Institute for Primary Care Providers

• December 13, 2023: Advanced Treatment Options for Urinary Incontinence

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

By Dave Hanson



Welcome to October and of course **CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH**. Here in the Upstate IMT division we have a team of dedicated cybersecurity professionals working hard to keep our systems and network safe.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is intended to help Upstate Students, Faculty and Staff become more aware of the actions they can take to combat cybercrime. Over the next month you will receive tips and have the opportunity to speak with our staff about cybersecurity topics.

While there are many items to consider we encourage you to focus on these 4 items:

- Use of strong passwords
- Use of multi-factor authentication
- · Recognize and report phishing
- Up to date software

Our team will be at several Upstate locations during the next month and will also offer a few webinars throughout the month, please take the time to see us. If you are not able to stop at one of the booths and have questions you can email ITsecurity@upstate.edu



CMO REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF

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October 13, 2023

Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Tip for October 2023

By the CDI Physician Advisory Group



Effective Documentation - Reportability of a condition is established when documentation reflects the condition is present and evaluated, treated, or monitored. Utilizing the most specific diagnostic language will help justify inpatient admission, demonstrate patient acuity, support length of stay, and facilitate discharge planning as conditions resolve. See this month's tip sheet (attached) for examples! Please contact the CDI Hotline at 315-464-5455 with questions.

Welcome New Clinicians!

Please join me in offering a warm welcome to the following new clinicians at Upstate Medical University:

MEDICINE

Shehzad Ali, MD Douglas Amodei, NP Christi Hayes, MD Bhaskara Madhira, MBBS Dhruv Patel, MD Inderpreet Singh, MD

PEDIATRICS

Caitlin Boylan, NP Ria Garg, MD Lucia Janovicova, MD Francesca McCaffrey, DO

PSYCHIATRY

Cherisse Pittman, LMSW

RADIOLOGY

Minh-Nhut Dang, MD

UROLOGY

Eyal Kord, MD

Exceptional Teacher Recipient for October 2023

By Dr. Lawrence Chin



Robert Roger Lebel, MD, a professor of Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University, is the October 2023 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly "Exceptional Moments in Teaching" program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers – including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators – are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.

Comments from Dr. Lebel's students:

"This professor has challenged me to not only practice my skills outside of the classroom, but to go above and beyond to shadow and critically evaluate providers and their skills so that I may integrate what may be deemed "best practice" into my own skillset. He has also inspired me to think ethically about clinical decisions and to put the patient first in





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October 13, 2023

everything that I do, from my classwork to my extracurricular research and organizational activities. He has been an exceptional role model and mentor that I am grateful to have and aspire to be like."

"Dr. Lebel's passion about this topic was infectious, and I found myself excited to learn about his work. The implementation of real-life examples that he has seen in his clinic was fascinating and also helped me to understand the foundations for most of his lectures. I really enjoyed his passion for the topic along with the great anecdotes provided."

"Dr. Lebel came to class with experience in the field he was teaching. He had stories for us about treating or encountering the diseases that we discussed, as well as gave us practical advice about what to do if we encounter a patient with a suspected chromosome abnormality. He invested a great deal of time and effort into making his lectures practical and engaging at the same time."

Outstanding Physician Comments

Comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:



Breast Care Center: Dr. Lisa Lai is a standout. Great bedside manner, connected with me as a patient, provided great explanation and education.

Breast Care Center at CC POB: Dr. Jayne Charlamb because of her knowledge and her caring and attention to detail. Dr. Jayne Charlamb gave an excellent, thorough exam, and then had helped answer questions and concerns of mine. She is an excellent and caring physician.

Cntr for Devel., Behavior and Gen.: We were especially grateful for the time that **Dr. Robert Lebel** gave to us examining our son, addressing our concerns, and explaining in detail which next steps we should consider.

Dermatology Clinic: I was so thrilled to finally see **Dr. Joyce Farah** after waiting for over a year. She is wonderful!!

ENT: Dr. Amar Suryadevara for taking time to numb my nose before pulling out the surgery packing.

ENT at Community: Dr. Mitchell Gore – great! **Dr. Mitchell Gore** did a sinus surgery on my son and he is doing great. He seems to be very knowledgeable with surgery he performs.

Family Medicine: Dr. Edgardo Arrazola is very kind and patient. He is very easy to talk to and is a great listener. **Dr. Rahila Iftikhar** was very thoughtful and thorough. **Dr. Kaushal Nanavati** listened to me and he is so in tuned to what people say. I can tell he genuinely cares about his patients. **Dr. Kaushal Nanavati** is very knowledgeable and a great communicator. **Dr. Kaushal Nanavati** was very caring and helpful.

Family Medicine at Community: Dr. Maryanne Arienmughare is amazing. She is the sole reason for us coming to Upstate. We followed her when she transferred. Our entire family sees her and she is always impressive with the level of care. **Dr. R Eugene Bailey** has been my doctor for over 40 years. He has cared for me in many ways. He shows





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October 13, 2023

genuine concern for well-being beyond expected. **Dr. R Eugene Bailey** – always on top of my health! **Dr. Paula Brooks** – her concern and care for my well-being was sincere. She was personable and professional. I was impressed with my overall experience with all of the individuals I dealt with, but I found **Dr. Paula Brooks** exceptional in addressing all of my concerns and reducing the anxiety that I had regarding my medical problem. Wonderful meeting **Dr. Mary Powers** for the first time. She discussed all my concerns and talked with me for a long time. **Dr. Krysten Wallace** is awesome.

Inclusive Health Services: Dr. Angana Mahapatra is excellent.

Joslin Center for Diabetes: Dr. Tuncay Delibasi provided excellent care and a well-rounded approach. Dr. Rachel Hopkins combines her superb expertise with compassion and integrity which she delivers in an upbeat, conversational manner. I feel that I am very fortunate to have Dr. Rachel Hopkins as my doctor. Dr. Roberto Izquierdo is always attentive, listens, and not in a hurry. Dr. Roberto Izquierdo was pleasant and did a superior job in all aspects. Dr. Ricardo Lundi is excellent as well as kind and helpful. I would highly recommend Dr. Ricardo Lundi. Dr. Jason Sloane was very kind and professional. He really seems to care about my getting well.

Joslin Pediatric Center: Dr. David Hansen has been excellent.

Multidisciplinary Programs Can. Ctr.: Dr. Jeffrey Albright is friendly, direct, and clear in all communications. Dr. Jeffrey Albright saved my life! Dr. Michael Archer was fantastic! Very personable and down to earth. Told us right straight to the point on how things are going to go. Very straight forward. Serious, but laughed with us too. Treated us like a person, not just a number. Very happy! Dr. Michael Archer was very good and compassionate. Dr. Kristin Kelly is amazing and I have recommended her to a few friends. Dr. Kristin Kelly was very patient and was very thorough explaining what was going to be the next steps and why. I felt so much better after listening to her.

Nephrology Clinic: Dr. William C. Elliott is an excellent listener, explains pros and cons of any questions I have asked. I really enjoyed my meeting with **Dr. William C. Elliott**. He listened closely to my questions and concerns and was clear and helpful with his answers. **Dr. Haris Mobeen** is an excellent doctor who is concerned about his patients and takes his time to explain options and your diagnosis. I would highly recommend him. **Dr. Haris Mobeen** answered all of my questions easily. He is a very caring and thorough doctor. He diagnosed my illness when other providers missed it. He is a very smart and excellent doctor.

Pediatric After hours at Community: Dr. Kimberly Rush is an amazing physician. Her calm welcoming demeanor allowed my son to open up about all of his symptoms. We felt completely cared for and will definitely return to see her. It is very evident that Dr. Kimberly Rush cares immensely for all patients she comes in contact with. My son warmed up to her immediately and she provides care you can trust. Dr. Kimberly Rush was amazing, thorough, and listened to all of my questions and concerns. Dr. Kimberly Rush was able to validate all of my concerns and was very thorough in diagnosing my child.

Pediatric Cancer Center: Dr. Kathryn Scott is very professional in dealing with my son's condition. Very approachable and knowledgeable. **Dr. Jody Sima** is wonderful!



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Pediatric Gastroenterology: Love Dr. Rheu Cristine B. Candava! Dr. Marcus Rivera – amazing! Dr. Marcus Rivera was kind, compassionate, and truly took his time to listen to not only two crazy parents, but to the young patient. Thank you! Dr. Prateek Wali – excellent! Dr. Prateek Wali is a great doctor and goes above and beyond for his patients.

Pediatric Surgery: Dr. Tamer Ahmed and **Dr. Michaela Kollisch-Singule** were not only professional but they were relaxed enough to sit down next to us and converse as we were all family. Very comforting. **Dr. Tamer Ahmed** and **Dr. Michaela Kollisch-Singule** made our experience the most comfortable that I would expect to feel at the hospital for a major operation on my son's chest.

Pulmonology Clinic: Dr. Mansur Javaid is a very compassionate and caring MD. **Dr. Sumendra Joshi** explained the CT scan results in great detail. He took his time during the appointment to address my concerns. Excellent doctor! **Dr. Birendra Sah** has always been attentive.

Rheumatology Clinic: Dr. Sheetal Rayancha is the best.

SUNY Upstate – Virtual: Dr. Antonio Culebras is very thorough and asks relevant questions. I would highly recommend him! **Dr. Birendra Sah** is a very competent and caring physician. **Dr. Karen Teelin** is an amazing doctor. She makes us feel very comfortable and she is easy to talk with. **Dr. Eufrosina Young** is incredible and I'm lucky to have her as I navigate my health journey! **Dr. Jianghong Yu** is caring, empathetic, and she listens.

Surgery – UH: Dr. Michael Costanza is outstanding. Dr. Michael Costanza seemed very compassionate to me. Dr. Anthony Feghali was wonderful at explaining my carotid artery operation. He answered all my questions. He explained all my future check-ups to keep track of my surgery progress. I'd rate him 100% as a doctor and surgeon.

Surgery – UH LL022: Dr. Michael Luca – excellent! I was very impressed with Dr. Joseph Valentino. Kind doctor. Very astute. Very thorough in everything about me and what needs to be done. I had instant and total trust in him and I was impressed he had thoroughly read every charted note on me. Very professional and very kind demeanor. Love him!

Surgical Subspecialties at CC: I was impressed with **Dr. Jeffrey Albright's** overall attention to my issues. He was very thorough with explaining procedure to be done, risks, and pre-surgery steps I would have to take in order that I would be receiving the best care available. I would highly recommend him. **Dr. Lauren Rabach** is one of the best docs I've ever had.

UHCC – Neurology: Dr. Sherif Elwan is an amazing doctor. He listens very carefully to his patients and does his best to determine what is good for his patient. Upon meeting **Dr. Dragos Mihaila** it was obvious – he had decades of experience. I waited 8 months to see this expert. I know he has the ability to solve the mystery behind my condition. I hope he will continue to evaluate and guide treatment going forward. **Dr. Dragos Mihaila** is an expert with rare and unique abilities serving the CNY community.

University Pediatric & Adolescent Center: Dr. Karen Teelin is very thorough and has a great bedside manner.

University Cardiology: Dr. Robert Carhart showed a lot of interest in my questions and strived to answer them. My visit with **Dr. Robert Carhart** was like visiting with an old friend, kind, and reassuring. **Dr. Robert Carhart** is taking good care





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October 13, 2023

of me and I am always glad to see him. **Dr. Robert Carhart** always provides great care and concern for my condition. **Dr. Robert Carhart** – excellent, courteous, kind, and professional. **Dr. Saktipada Mookherjee** is an excellent doctor. He is thorough and thoughtful. He listens and provides honest feedback. I'm always included in my care plan and I feel in control of decisions I make for myself.

University Center for Vision Care: Dr. Robert Fechtner explained everything in great detail and worked with me to find a solution. He was very accommodating of my work schedule that day. Dr. Katharine Liegel – very kind, personable, and attentive to the child's anxiety during exam. Dr. Stephen Merriam – friendly and takes his time to explain. Dr. Stephen Merriam is the best and wouldn't want anyone else. Dr. Stephen Merriam seemed to care about my eye and called several times. Dr. Stephen Merriam is always great with my daughter. I know she's getting excellent care. Dr. Stephen Merriam listened very attentively and answered all my questions. He made me feel relaxed with my concerns of my eyes. Dr. Robert Swan is the best! He's explained the risk and reward of various treatments throughout my time with him and treated me as an equal colleague in my medical decisions. He asks questions and listens and offers the options, but ultimately gives me the choice. He's very respectful. Dr. Robert Swan is always friendly, concerned, shares information, works to effect best results in challenging situations, and is thoroughly professional.

University Geriatricians: Dr. Andrea Berg is kind, compassionate, and knowledgeable. She takes time to hear all of what is affecting her patients and is thorough in her assessment and care plan. I feel very blessed to have Dr. Andrea Berg caring for me! Dr. Andrea Berg has always been wonderfully kind and patient. She is very knowledgeable about the problems facing the patient as well as the family care providers. Every time my mother has faced a new issue, she has always responded promptly to my questions/concerns. Knowing that she is my mother's physician gives me a tremendous peace of mind. I know that my mother is getting excellent care and Dr. Andrea Berg's compassion and understanding for the family caregivers and their needs is amazing. Dr. Dona Varghese speaks very clearly and always checks that I understand what she is telling me. She went over different options and then permitted me to make choices. I'm so very grateful to have Dr. Dona Varghese guiding me and my wife as we deal with my MCI. I sometimes self-diagnose my condition and make the condition worse than it really is. Dr. Dona Varghese brings me back to reality and gives me HOPE! What more could I want from my doctor? Dr. Dona Varghese takes the time to make sure I understand her and the options I have. She goes far above the care and consideration I get from other doctors.

University Internists: Dr. Tingyin Chee is very knowledgeable as well as caring. Dr. Tingyin Chee is great. I am glad that she is my primary care physician. I like Dr. Vincent Frechette and think he is competent. Been seeing Dr. Vincent Frechette for many years and he is always willing to take as much time as necessary to address my needs. Dr. Vincent Frechette is the best and has been for over 30 years. Dr. Vincent Frechette has always been so kind. Dr. Vincent Frechette has amazing communication skills. Dr. Vincent Frechette as always is exceptional. He always listens and takes his time with you. Dr. Kaushik Govindaraju is very kind and personable. Dr. Danielle Kochen is so kind and easy to talk to, asks questions of me, and always allows me to ask questions as well. She is wonderful provider. I have always found Dr. Sarah Lappin caring and spending time with me to discuss any issues. Dr. Sarah Lappin is attentive, kind, and I never feel rushed. Dr. Catherine White spent a lot of time listening and suggesting options. I never felt like my appointment was rushed which is important to me as I tend to glaze over problems.

Upstate Brain & Spine Center: Dr. Ali Hazama was attentive to my description of my 6 month struggle with a different medical team which had been ineffective. I look forward to **Dr. Ali Hazama's** continuing care. **Dr. Ali Hazama** impressed





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October 13, 2023

us. Confident that his knowledge and expertise will provide the proper treatment. **Dr. Ali Hazama** was very concerned about my spine surgery and explained options well. **Dr. Ali Hazama** – extremely personable and so caring. **Dr. Ali Hazama** because of his sincere treatment on caring for my condition and questions.

Upstate Pediatrics: Dr. Ellen Schurman's compassion and love for children is obvious. She talks to my daughter as an equal and is able to ease her nervousness every time. **Dr. Ellen Schurman** is always wonderful. She puts my daughter at ease right away. We have been with **Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind** for nearly 10 years and we wouldn't have it any other way. She's always patient, attentive, and thorough. We love Upstate Pediatrics and **Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind! Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind** is always kind, patient, calming, informative, and reassuring. I am grateful that she is my children's pediatrician!

Vascular Surgery at Community: Dr. Scott Surowiec is the greatest. **Dr. Surowiec** is an excellent practitioner and I am pleased with the outcome of my surgery. **Dr. Scott Surowiec** appears to be a very personable and caring individual. He's a great listener and show's complete commitment to my care. I would recommend him as my doctor to anyone.

Wound Care Center: Dr. Monica Morgan – amazing! I would trust her with my life. Made me feel safe, she listened to me, and she knew I had a bad experience so she was extra gentle with me. Answered all my questions! Excellent job **Dr. Monica Morgan!** You Rock! And you are so empathetic to your patients and really listen and explain. I can't say enough. Just thank you for making a bad situation not so bad.

3West at Community: Dr. Zaher Oueida attended to my mother's needs. He gave excellent care and took the time to explain her medical health. He has a wonderful bedside manner. Patient and kind.

4North at Community: Dr. Ronald Russo was the best. He was knowledgeable, attentive, caring, understanding, and the most helpful!! **Dr. MacKenzie Trovato** is the best!

07A: Dr. Emil Azer is one of the kindest MD I've ever known.

09F: Dr. Satish Krishnamurthy of the Neurosurgery Department was incredibly compassionate and calming.

Best, Amy





CDI Tip of the Month This or That? Outlining Effective Documentation

Patient acuity and severity does not translate using non-specific language. When appropriate, documentation below will accurately reflect severity of illness and condition status. This helps to justify inpatient admission, demonstrate patient acuity, support length of stay, and facilitate discharge planning.

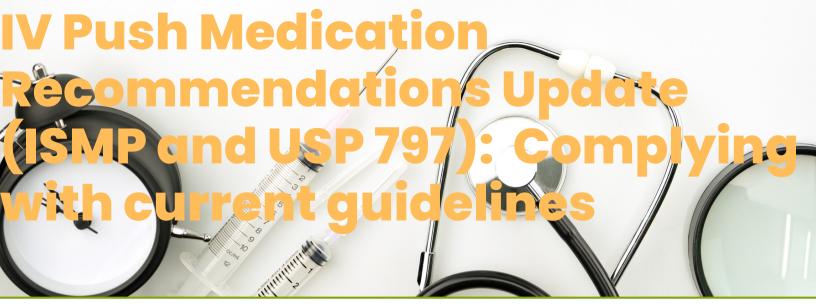
Instead of this	Use this! (when applicable)	
Respiratory Insufficiency/Distress	Acute Respiratory Failure	
Renal Insufficiency	Acute Renal Failure or Injury	
Troponinemia/Troponin Leak	NSTEMI, Type 2 MI, or Non-ischemic myocardial	
	injury	
Transaminitis	Ischemic hepatitis, Shock Liver	
Abnormal Coags, Elevated PT/INR	Coagulopathy due to	
Urosepsis	Sepsis due to UTI	
Sepsis Syndrome, Bacteremia with SIRS	Sepsis	
Uncontrolled Hypertension	Hypertensive Urgency, Emergency, or Crisis	
'Post Op'	'Following surgery'	
Sharp Debridement	Excisional Debridement	
'History of'	Chronic or Active	
'Stable'	Fair, Guarded, Serious, Critical	
Delirious, AMS	Metabolic or Toxic Encephalopathy	
'vs'	Multifactorial	
Low or Poor nutritional status	Undernutrition, Malnutrition	
Deconditioned	Frail, Impaired mobility, Complete immobility	
"Covering for", "Empiric" treatment	Possible, Probable, Likely, Suspected	
Resolved	Resolved with treatment or Ruled out	
Low sodium, Low albumin	Hyponatremia, Hypoalbuminemia	

Reportability of a condition is established when documentation reflects the condition is present and evaluated, treated, or monitored. Condition severity is not required for inpatient reporting.

October 2023

e-mail: cdi@upstate.edu

phone: 315-247-6920



3 GUIDELINES:



Do not dilute or reconstitute IV push medications by drawing up the contents into a commercially available, prefilled syringe of 0.9% sodium chloride



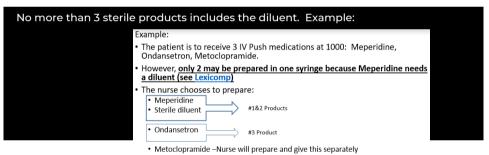
Medications are not to be diluted unnecessarily. When dilution is necessary, Lexicomp or manufacturer guidelines should be used.



No more than **3** sterile products can be utilized at any one time during preparation of IV medication

Prefilled saline syringes have been approved for the flushing of vascular access devices, but have NOT been FDA approved for reconstitution, dilution and or administration of IV push medications.

All Healthcare professionals licensed to administer IV medication will use Lexicomp or manufacturer references to determine diluent. All medication syringes when not prepared at the patient's bedside must be labeled.



ADDITIONAL IV PUSH GUIDELINES:

•Unused starting single-dose container must be discarded after preparation...not to be used for more than I patient •Administration begins within 4 hours following the start of preparation, if not, it must be discarded and a new dose prepared, if indicated

VIDEO DEMONSTRATION OF APPROVED MEDICATION MIX ALTERNATIVES TO PREFILLED SALINE SYRINGE:

Option 1 Video

Click here



Option 2 Video

Click here



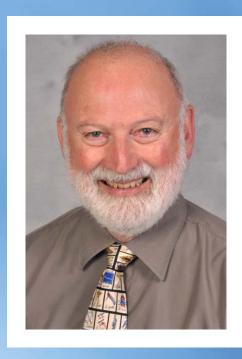
Option 3 Video



*Not to be used with Pediatric Patients



EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS IN TEACHING



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COMMENTS FROM DR. LEBEL'S STUDENTS:

"This professor has challenged me to not only practice my skills outside of the classroom, but to go above and beyond to shadow and critically evaluate providers and their skills so that I may integrate what may be deemed "best practice" into my own skillset. He has also inspired me to think ethically about clinical decisions and to put the patient first in everything that I do, from my classwork to my extracurricular research and organizational activities. He has been an exceptional role model and mentor that I am grateful to have and aspire to be like."

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These guidelines are recommendations for healthcare professionals on the use of chaperones for sensitive examinations. We recognize that we have an obligation to respect each patient's privacy and dignity and protect patients' safety at each visit in a manner that strives to provide a comfortable and considerate atmosphere. These guidelines will assist healthcare professionals to determine when and how chaperones should be used and minimize the risk of healthcare professionals' actions being misinterpreted.

DEFINITION

Sensitive Examination/Procedure – Includes the physical examination of, or a procedure involving the genitalia or rectum (regardless of gender) or female breast, or the breast of a patient who identifies as female, regardless of the gender of the person performing the examination.

GUIDELINES

In cases when intimate examinations are performed, the patient should be advised of the availability of a chaperone. A chaperone is present as a safeguard for all parties (patient and practitioners) and is a witness to continuing consent to the procedure.

Clinical staff members of Upstate Medical are preferred as chaperones whenever possible. At all times, the chaperone adheres to the standards of confidentiality consistent within Upstate Medical policies and procedures. During the time that a chaperone is present, the healthcare provider will strive to keep all inquiries of a sensitive nature to a minimum. A separate opportunity for private conversation between the patient and the physician/practitioner should also be arranged.

In cases of patients without capacity, surrogates or health care agents may be present for the examination; however, they should not substitute for a chaperone, if it was determined that one is needed.

Consistent with the wishes of a minor and in alignment with regulatory guidelines, family members/guardians may be present for the examination; however, they should not substitute for a chaperone, if it was determined that one is needed.

If a patient does not wish a chaperone to be present, their wishes should be respected and recorded. However, if the healthcare professional has reason to believe that the absence of a chaperone would be compromising for the patient, further discussion may be required.

Providers are not required to provide further care, if the patient refuses a chaperone when the provider determines that one should be present. Documentation should include that a chaperone, by name and title, was used during the examination. Documentation should also reflect when a chaperone was offered and refused by patient with a mutually agreed upon plan of care.

Any questions, please contact Quality at (315) 464-4478 and (315) 492-5247 or General Counsel at (315) 464-4700.

References

American Medical association, Code of Medical Ethics: Opinion 1.2.4. Retrieved from Use of Chaperones | ama-coe (ama-assn.org)

Stony Brook University Hospital. (2021). Use of Chaperones During Sensitive Examinations and Procedures, Administrative Policy and Procedures RI0065.

Upstate Medical. (2023). Use of Chaperones During Sensitive Examinations and Procedures, Clinical Policy CM L-NN.