03.04.2015

FROM THE DESK OF:

Anthony P. Weiss, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Upstate University Hospital



# AHRQ Pressure Ulcer Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Program

**Applies to All Providers** 

AHRQ Informational Upstate has been selected to be one of 10 hospitals nationwide to receive education and technical assistance through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Pressure Ulcer Prevention Program. The applicant pool was quite large as AHRQ had more than 40 hospitals apply for consideration for the Pressure Ulcer Prevention Program. They used a rigorous evaluation process to make the selection; criteria included goals for improvement, readiness to undertake this improvement initiative, leadership support, and a balance of hospital size, type, patient mix and geographic location. This program is a two year long commitment to improve safety for our patients and staff regarding pressure ulcer prevention. More information will come as we begin our journey.

#### **NYS Department of Health Sepsis Data**

Applies to All Providers

Sepsis-Septic Shock Data Report Informational Last week, the New York State Department of Health released hospital-specific data regarding the recognition and treatment of severe sepsis and septic shock. As shown in the graphs below, our performance at both the Downtown and Community campuses is extraordinary – for example, our compliance with the six-hour bundle of processes is at the 77<sup>th</sup> percentile (Downtown) and 89<sup>th</sup> percentile (Community) amongst all hospitals in the State. This is a true team effort and our position in the top quartile statewide for one of the most pressing health conditions we face is cause for celebration.

We cannot rest on our laurels. Opportunities identified through internal review include:

- Clearly identifying treatment time-zero specific to the diagnosis of severe sepsis or septic shock
- Ensuring that blood-cultures are drawn (and documented as such) before administration of effective antibiotics
- Ensuring effective patient handoff so that concept of care (the clock) is maintained
- Early identification and documentation of exclusions to sepsis protocol

Next steps are to support clear identification of severe sepsis and septic shock patients, establish a clear initiation of protocol, and have that understanding equally shared among all members of the treating team, which includes the patient. We intend to leverage our EMR

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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.

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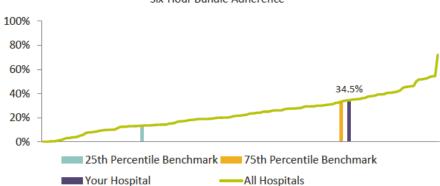
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(Epic) to reduce intrusion into workflow while optimizing early identification and collaborative communication. Thanks for all involved in helping to make Upstate real leaders in this area.

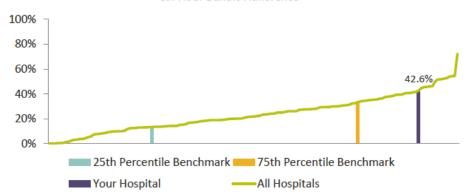
#### **DOWNTOWN**

Six-Hour Bundle Adherence



#### **COMMUNITY**

Six-Hour Bundle Adherence



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### **Prescribing Beer**

**Applies to All Providers** 

Beer Advisory I recently learned that, on occasion, beer is actually prescribed as part of dietary orders for some patients here at Upstate. In reviewing a few of these cases, it appears to be used for management of alcohol withdrawal and the treatment of delirium tremens. While this approach may be effective in some cases, it simply is not standard of care at present for inpatient management of withdrawal and represents serious potential risk when unintentionally mixed with other prescribed sedatives.

At this point, therefore, we are prohibiting the prescription of beer for inpatients at both campuses. In addition, working together with Dr. David Lehmann and the P&T Committee, we will review the overall hospital policy and procedure as it relates to management of alcohol withdrawal to be sure our practices are consistent with current literature in this area. If you have any questions or concerns about either of these issues, please send Dr. Lehmann or me a note.

#### Free Preview Event: The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer

Cancer Story Informational You can get an early look at clips from the upcoming television event, "The Story of Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies" from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 25. The Upstate Cancer Center, in partnership with the WCNY television station, presents the free preview event at the Center. The center is adjacent to University Hospital at 750 East Adams Street in Syracuse. Free parking is available in the open lot across the street from the center.

Physicians and staff from the Cancer Center will make presentations during the event and attendees will learn about their risk of cancer and the newest treatments available.

"The Story of Cancer" is a six-hour documentary based on "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer." The film was directed by filmmakers Barak Goodman and produced by Ken Burns, who recently oversaw production of "The Roosevelts." For more information on the preview event, please contact Upstate Connect at 464-8668.

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### **Outstanding Physician Comments**

**Applies to All Physicians** 

Physician Comments Informational Each week we receive written comments from our patients regarding the care we provide within the Hospital. I thought it would be nice for other physicians to begin to see the positive feedback we are receiving. Below are this week's comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units at Upstate:

5B - "Excellent doctors."

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