

Healthy Steps SBAR

Situation:

Southwest's Healthy Steps Women's and Children's Center will close August 1, 2009 and patients referred to other Southwest affiliated clinics.

Background:

Healthy Steps has provided quality prenatal and postnatal care for low-income women and children that traditionally have a difficult time accessing care because of poor Medicaid reimbursement rates. Last year the Center saw more than 22,000 patient visits.

Assessment:

With additional budget cuts anticipated at the State level and a program subsidy that exceeded \$3.5 million in 2008, Southwest will change to a new care model that is more sustainable and better meets the long-term health care needs of the patients.

Response:

Most pediatric patients will be referred to Family Medicine of Southwest Washington (360-514-7550) and the adult female patients will be referred to Southwest Medical Group's new OB/GYN practice (360.514.1060) opening August 3, 2009.

Southwest Champions Surgical CheckLists

Perioperative Services is adopting new Surgical Patient Safety Checklists to help reduce risk of errors.

At three critical points during surgery (prior to anesthesia, immediately prior to incision, and prior to exiting the operating room), a member of the surgical team verbally confirms completion of each step for infection prophylaxis, anesthesia safety, and other essential steps.

The project is being phased in first in General Specialty, followed by Gynecology, Orthopedics, Neurology, Family Birth and all specialties.

Steve Matous, MD, gives the thumbs up for Southwest's new Surgical Patient Safety Checklist.



Get Caught Clean Handed!

Southwest is stepping up efforts to ensure proper hand hygiene after a drop in compliance earlier this year. Our *Caught Clean Handed* campaign directs staff, physicians, and families to follow proper hand cleaning standards.

We're seeing the rates improve over time, and physician compliance is among the highest of those observed, so thank you for your efforts.

During the recent media storm over Novel H1N1 (Swine Flu), Southwest followed CDC guidelines for isolation and contact precautions. During this time, we also adopted new standardized contact precaution signage now on the units. The signs are color coded per precautions type. Please look for the new isolation signs and follow the instructions for donning PPE.

When you consider that hospital-acquired infections at Southwest cost an average of \$9,337 per case, it's easy to see why this work is so critical. Again, the best method for reducing risk to our patients and each other is good hand hygiene. If a caregiver takes the time to remind you to clean your hands, please remember to thank them for helping to keep you and your patients safe.

—Alden Roberts, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Tumor Boards Get New Scope

Southwest's Laboratory Services, Cancer Center and Foundation have partnered to purchase a specialized microscope for on-the-spot analytics of lab slides during Tumor Board conferences, resulting in greater physician collaboration.

Death with Dignity

Ann Jackson – Oregon Hospice Association
George Eighmey – Compassion & Choices of Oregon
Marc Berg – Southwest Hospice & Homecare

June 11, HEC, 7-8 am

Grand Rounds

Interventions to Reduce Surgical Site Infections
Dr. Edward Nemergut, Univ of Virginia Health System
July 9, HEC, 7-8 am