



MEDICAL STAFF PULSE

a bi-weekly newsletter for CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL STAFF

Medication-Use Launches Successfully

Medication Use, the first of the CS-Link™ clinical applications to launch, went live throughout the medical center last month.

During the July 24-25 go-live:

- more than 600 people worked through the weekend;
- pharmacy loaded and verified 16,400 orders;
- nursing reconciled every Medication Administration Record;
- and the technology team processed over 100 migrations.

“We’re off to a great start launching the CS-Link clinical applications,” said Paul Silka, M.D., chief medical information officer and medical director for clinical informatics. “This is our first big step toward implementing an electronic medical record that

can follow patients throughout every aspect of care. The go-live went exceptionally well and I want to give thanks to everyone who participated in the launch, particularly the nursing, respiratory and pharmacy team

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Medical Group Achieves Elite Status

Physician groups also recognize Health Associates

Cedars-Sinai Medical Group has once again been awarded Elite status, the highest possible designation for quality care recognized by the California Association of Physician Groups.

This is the third consecutive year the medical group has achieved the status, ranking it among the top 20 physician organizations in the state in 2009. The group is also only one of three in the Los Angeles area to receive this designation. The group received a score of four out of four stars in the organization’s annual survey of 85 medical groups and independent physician associations as part of the Standards of Excellence program.

Cedars-Sinai Health Associates, an independent practice association that provides services to members of managed care organizations, received an exemplary ranking with three out of four stars in the survey.

“This recognition is the result of an ongoing commitment within our entire Medical Delivery Network to provide the highest quality care to our patients and to improve the health of our community,” said Thomas D. Gordon, chief executive officer of the Medical Delivery Network and senior vice president of Cedars-Sinai Health System. “Thank you to everyone who has helped us earn these distinctions.”



Drs. Siegel (left) and Luo (right) perform an echocardiogram on a patient in Saipan.

CARDIOLOGY IN PARADISE

Physicians seek funds to start Saipan fellowship

Saipan is a place of paradox. Though it’s an island paradise, its population is generally poor and suffering from illnesses brought on by the Americanization of their diets with a preponderance of fast foods high in fat and low in nutrients.

This medical challenge drew four Cedars-Sinai cardiologists to the largest island of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The team brought portable echocardiogram machines and spent two

weeks in Saipan this past spring, teaching healthcare workers and conducting cardiology clinics.

Cardiology fellows David Singh, M.D., and Rita Ng, M.D., instituted the plan after participating in a similar Saipan trip as residents at the University of California, San Francisco. The pair enlisted Robert Siegel, M.D., director of the Cardiac Noninvasive Laboratory, and Huai Luo, M.D., cardiologist

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Physicians Seek Funds to Start Saipan Fellowship

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and sonographer, to join them.

“David and I wanted to continue taking our training to developing areas, and we wanted to put a cardiology slant to it,” Dr. Ng said.

The Mariana Islands are about 120 miles north of Guam in the Pacific Ocean, with Saipan measuring just 12 miles long and 5.6 miles across. Many of the health problems among the Commonwealth’s population are related to obesity and hypertension, known as the “new world syndrome” brought on by changes in diet. Roughly half of the population lives below the poverty line.

The team is seeking funding to create a regular rotation for Cedars-Sinai cardiology fellows and physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center, which is the only hospital among the Northern Mariana Islands.

“We want to make this sustainable,” said Dr. Siegel of Cedars-Sinai physicians going to Saipan. “We want to broaden the scope and gather grants to ensure funding. There is a very strong sense of civic and moral responsibility to provide for underserved populations like this.”

Traveling to Saipan presents learning opportunities for those who participate as many of the illnesses there aren’t common in the United States. For example, the hospital regularly follows more than 400 patients with rheumatic heart disease.

“I’ve never seen that many cases of rheumatic heart disease,” said Dr. Siegel. “You might see five cases a year here. It’s a great learning experience to be in a place where such diseases are more prevalent.”

One of their patients will be coming to the United States for treatment. Michelle, a 13-year-old girl who was an active soccer player, has been hospitalized twice during the past year for heart failure.

The team was able to diagnose the problem, and Mending Kids International and Alfredo Trento, M.D., director of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, are helping bring her to Cedars-Sinai for a mitral valve replacement.



Above: (l-r) Dr. Rita Ng, Dr. David Singh, Michelle’s father, Michelle, a 13-year-old patient, Dr. Siegel and Dr. Luo.



Left: Dr. Siegel shows medical workers echocardiogram techniques at Commonwealth Health Center, the only hospital in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Chair Chosen for New Neurology Department

Dr. Lyden helped lead trial of clot-busting drug

Patrick D. Lyden, M.D., FAAN, a highly respected neurologist who has conducted extensive research into cerebrovascular disease and potential treatments for stroke, has been named chair of the newly designated Department of Neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.



The announcement was made by Shlomo Melmed, M.D., Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Medical Faculty, and Mark R. Gavens, Senior Vice President for Clinical Care Services and Chief Operating Officer, who said Dr. Lyden's expertise will further strengthen Cedars-Sinai's standing as one of the most progressive centers for neurological care and research in California.

Dr. Lyden, who also will hold the Carmen and Louis Warschaw Chair in Neurology, has conducted extensive research into cerebrovascular disease and potential treatments for stroke. He helped lead the pivotal trial of the clot-busting drug tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) and shared a prestigious "Cine" award with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for producing and directing a training video that is now used

around the world.

Prior to his appointment, which became effective July 1, Dr. Lyden served the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego, as Professor and Vice Chairman for Clinical Neurology, and served the UCSD Medical Center as Clinical Chief of Neurology and Director of the Stroke Center.

Dr. Lyden's research has consistently been funded by the National Institutes of Health. He has published more than 200 journal articles and abstracts and has edited a textbook on stroke intervention. He lectures frequently at national and international conferences and is on the editorial boards of the International Journal of Stroke, The Stroke Interventionalist, and the Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease.

Cedars-Sinai's Stroke Program and neurology services have increased in scope and prominence in recent years with recruitment of highly respected neurologists and neurosurgeons, as well as investments in innovative interventional tools and therapies. The Stroke Program recently received its second consecutive Gold Award from the American Stroke Association – recognition of sustained performance achievement – and received certification as a Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission.

Web/VS Tip of the Week *CS-Link™ Medication Lists*

As of July 25, Web/VS is receiving medication orders for inpatient and ICU patients in real-time via CS-Link™.

Previously, the medication orders received for inpatients were updated every three hours and the ICU patients were updated hourly. The outpatient electronic medical record system (Centricity/Logician), the outpatient pharmacy system (Etreby), the emergency department system (EmStat), and the labor and delivery system (WatchChild) medication lists are transferred as the result of patient visits.

The CS-Link Medication lists can be accessed in Web/VS in several locations. The most common method is via the "Recent Results" screen; the latest medication list will always float to the top of the "recent results" view. You can click on the medication list title to view the full medication list. The format of the medication list is the same as before. Meds are organized into "scheduled" and "PRN" categories.

The second way to view CS-Link medication orders is in the "Orders" section of Web/VS.

The third method is to select "Medications" from the "Reports" menu. A summary of all the historical medication lists for the patient appears in the right-hand pane of the window.

The fourth method is to view the QuickLook report, which includes a concise version of the medication list.

Note: Since the interface is now real-time, discharge medication lists need to be completed before the patient is discharged. It is no longer possible to do it after the fact because all medication orders are automatically cancelled upon discharge.

For questions, comments or suggestions, please contact the Web/VS Support Team at (310) 423-2828 or via e-mail at mdsupport@cshs.org. You can also click on the "Contact Us" button in Web/VS (located in the blue shaded area on the bottom left side of the screen).

CS-Link™ Medication Use Launch Successful

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members."

With regard to any specific problems from the go-live, "at every go-live, we know little fixes, or programming enhancements will be required," Dr. Silka said. "The CS-Link Team anticipated these and rapidly completed those needed to achieve the best fit between the Med Use system and the caregivers."

Medication Use replaces the existing medication management systems (CareVue and HartMeds) and incorporates state-of-the-art medication alerts and enhanced verification processes. Use of the application will result in more accurate medication dispensing and improved patient safety.

The next CS-Link application set to launch is ASAP, which affects the Emergency Department and is scheduled for go-live in November. The first phase of the Inpatient go-live is also set for November.

In related news, the Medical Executive Committee extended the life of the CS-Link™ Medical Staff Oversight Committee through Dec. 31, 2010, as the implementation continues.



(l-r) Dr. Silka, Thomas M. Priselac, president and CEO, and Rita Shane, director of Pharmacy Services, talk during the Medication Use go-live.

Lectureship Established in Late Rabbi's Honor

Inaugural event will be Friday, Nov. 6

A new lectureship has been established in memory of Rabbi Levi Meier, who served as Cedars-Sinai's Jewish chaplain and spiritual leader for three decades.

The inaugural Levi Meier Memorial Lectureship in Medical Ethics will be held Friday, Nov. 6, at 8:30 a.m. in Harvey Morse Auditorium. The speaker will be Scott Halpern, M.D., Ph.D., MBE, assistant professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Division at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

The topic will be "Bedside rationing of critical care: Shedding light rather than cursing the darkness."

Dr. Halpern has served as a consultant regarding ethical issues for the Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration

and United Network for Organ Sharing. In 2008, he was selected as a Greenwall Foundation Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. His clinical interests include critical care medicine and the management of patients with pulmonary hypertension.

Rabbi Meier passed away in July 2008 following a long illness. Widely regarded by those who knew him as "the heart and soul" of Cedars-Sinai, Rabbi Meier first came to the medical center in 1978. He was a biblical scholar, published author and a clinical psychologist who earned his doctorate in psychology from the University of Southern California. Deeply interested in medical ethics and the synthesis of Judaism and psychology, he convened annual "Psychology and Judaism" conferences at Cedars-Sinai with guest lecturers and panel discussions.

H&P Reminder

Pre-op assessments must be done within 30 days

Physicians are reminded that history and physical (H & P) exams must be documented no more than 30 days prior to surgery or a procedure.

The timeframe applies to every patient scheduled for an inpatient or outpatient invasive procedure, or a non-invasive procedure that may result in a significant physiological effect. Following the guidelines is not dependent on anesthesia being administered.

The H & P can be dictated or written in the 30-day pre-op period by a physician with appropriate privileges or by a physician-in-training.

If dictated, it should be coded as "Pre-op." A "STAT" transcription is necessary if the assessment is dictated the day before surgery to ensure its availability by 5 p.m. that day.

SHARE YOUR STORY



Send an e-mail to:

MedStaffPulse@cshs.org



Imaging Case of the Month for August

Submitted by Jose A. Ospina, M.D., Ph.D., and Thomas Learch, M.D., of the S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center.

History: A 13-year-old with disfiguring lesions of the hands.

Question: Which choice describes the location of the abnormalities?

- Osseous
- Articular
- Juxta-articular
- Soft tissue

Go online to access the Imaging Case of the Month Web site and continue with your diagnosis.

We welcome your feedback. Please send your questions and comments to Marcel Maya, M.D., at marcel.maya@cshs.org.

Meeting and Events

Brazil: Country of Beauty, Diversity and Contrasts – Aug. 18

Cedars-Sinai Alumni Association hosts Jose Alfredo Graca Lima, Brazil's consul-general in Los Angeles, and Sergio Mielniczenko, producer of the "Brazilian Hour and Global Village" on KPFK-FM 90.7. The evening will conclude with a screening of the 1959 film "Orfeu Negro/Black Orpheus." Registration and socializing begins at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation follows at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Suggested donations, in cash or check, are \$15 for members of the general public, \$10 for paid alumni members, and \$5 for those in training. To RSVP, call (310) 423-8047 or e-mail martin@cshs.org.

Rehabilitation Topics in the Management of Brain Injuries – Sept. 12

This one-day conference addresses treatment options for integrating the neurological pathology with the functional and behavioral impairments in assessing the rehabilitative choices in patients with brain injury. The conference is from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Luxe Hotel Sunset, 11461 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles. Information: Go online to download a PDF of a brochure or call Barbara Stokes at (310) 423-2935.

10th Annual HIV/AIDS Conference – Sept. 25

This course will increase understanding and respect in the care of sex workers through a presentation on patient interaction and risk reduction strategies. Lectures and case presentations will address issues of effective treatment specific to substance addiction in HIV positive patients. The conference is from 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25, at the Intercontinental Hotel – Century City, 2151 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles. Information: Go online to download a flyer or call Barbara Stokes at (310) 423-2935.

Head to Toe: Orthopaedic Aspects of the Growing Child – Oct. 10

This one-day course for pediatricians and family practice physicians provides information on the diagnostic process in common pediatric orthopaedic problems such as hip and back pain using an algorithm-based approach. The event runs from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, in Harvey Morse Auditorium. Information: Call Barbara Stokes at (310) 423-2935

Annual Meeting of the Medical Staff – Oct. 26

The 2009 Pioneer in Medicine Award and the Chief of Staff Award will be presented at this luncheon meeting. Chief of Staff

William W. Brien, M.D., and President and CEO Thomas M. Priselac will be among those speaking at the event, which runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26, in Harvey Morse Auditorium. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.

The Levi Meier Memorial Lectureship in Medical Ethics – Nov. 6

The inaugural Levi Meier Memorial Lectureship in Medical will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, in Harvey Morse Auditorium. Scott Halpern, M.D., Ph.D., MBE, of the University of Pennsylvania will be speaking on "Bedside rationing of critical care: Shedding light rather than cursing the darkness."

Run for Her – Nov. 15

The fifth annual Run for Her 5K run and friendship walk is Sunday, Nov. 15, starting at Pan Pacific Park, 7600 Beverly Blvd., next to The Grove. The 5K starts at 9 a.m. and the finish line festival ends at noon. Proceeds from the run benefit the Cedars-Sinai Women's Cancer Research Institute. For information or to register for Team Cedars-Sinai, visit www.runforher.com.

Grand Rounds

For information on scheduling of Grand Rounds, go online to access the Continuing Medical Education website.