

To the Point



From the desk of
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“Dedicated to Sharing God’s Love Through Health, Healing and Comfort” – the first month

On Jan. 1, Good Samaritan Society and Sanford Health officially became one organization. Our first order of business is to continue “connecting the dots” between the businesses, but already we’ve experienced examples of more seamless transitions of care.

Measuring What Matters

We are living in a world where we are judged by externally imposed quality measures. We are looking at this from a different angle – what reflects meaningful quality to YOU and your residents? What would you be proud to share with residents and their families and your professional colleagues about the quality of care you provide? We will plan to discuss this at our in-person meeting in Atlanta next month. I hope you can join us, but if not, you can share feedback online as well.

Pharmacy Update

Remember, regulations now require medical directors to review the Medication Reviews every month. Please include this in the hours you report to your administrator monthly.

Influenza

We are starting to see an uptick of influenza activity in our centers. Thank you for your support in achieving high vaccination results. Across the Society, 92 percent of our residents and 77 percent of our employees are vaccinated. Vaccination will continue through the end of influenza season. Our goal is to vaccinate 95 percent of residents and >75 percent of employees (next year we will move to a mandatory vaccination policy).

Prevention of Avoidable Hospital Transfers

Careful monitoring and quick action to prevent avoidable hospitalizations is one of the highest priorities of the Society. Thank you for playing your part. Do you have any “aha” moments that have resulted from review of hospital transfers? Please send me a note and share your success stories. Also, remember to report the time you spend reviewing the acute care transfers to your administrator every month. In the following weeks, I will be sending a note to medical directors who have not been reporting any time on this.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Update

We know it is important that you have accurate and actionable data available to track progress on antimicrobial stewardship. We are developing a system that will populate prescriptions and infections from PointClickCare (PCC); it should be ready for an unveiling in May. Stay tuned!

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and LTC Medicine

I hope to see many of you in Atlanta next month. If you are there, please join us on Thursday evening, March 7, for a great meal and fellowship. Remember to take advantage of your AMDA membership. [Click here](#) to learn how to access this. Also, remember, the Society helps cover costs to [become a certified medical director](#) – please consider taking advantage of this exceptional professional development opportunity.

Questions? Email ywalker3@good-sam.com.