

Provider NEWSLETTER



Informed consent

During Mercy's most recent visit from The Joint Commission, informed consent from providers was noted as an area for improvement. Please review the tips below.

- Mercy's Consent, Informed Policy has been updated to include the specific care, treatment and services that require informed consent as decided by Mercy's Medical Staff.
 - This policy was approved by the Medical Director Council on June 21, 2018, and the Medical Executive Committee on July 10, 2018.
- All consents must be dated and timed per the Consent, Informed Policy.
- Consent forms must be completed prior to the time of the procedure. This requirement is waived for emergent procedures.
- The completed consent form shall be retained in the medical record.
- The responsibility for obtaining and documenting a patient's informed consent is that of the practitioner who will perform the procedure or a practitioner associate. This should be completed prior to the start of the procedure and includes that the patient was informed of the risks, benefits and alternatives.
 - Under no circumstances are hospital personnel responsible for discussing risks, benefits and alternatives for any procedure.
 - Hospital personnel may present the consent form to the patient for signature and sign as witness to that signature.

The complete policy may be accessed via p.mercycare.org or by clicking [here](#). Thank you for your review and assistance with compliance.



Kara Burg becomes Director, Clinical Improvement at Mercy



Kara stepped into the role of Director, Clinical Improvement on Sept. 17. She replaces Jenny Federspiel, who transitioned to a new position within Clinical Improvement & Accreditation. Kara, who holds a Master of Health Administration from Des Moines University Osteopathic

Medical Center, was previously a Director of Clinic Operations with MercyCare Community Physicians since January 2015. In that position, she oversaw eight MercyCare clinics and managed quality programming. She has a long history within our organization, having come aboard in 2005 as a Senior Reimbursement/Financial Analyst at Mercy Medical Center before advancing to Strength and Rehab Services Senior Director in 2008. Her wide breadth of experiences will continue to support efforts to integrate and streamline inpatient and outpatient quality reporting processes. Welcome to this new role, Kara!

Four Mercy Physical Therapy locations moving to clinic-based billing

The following Mercy locations providing rehab therapies moved from hospital-based to clinic-based billing structures on Jan. 1, 2019:

- Mercy Health Plaza (NE Cedar Rapids) – Physical Therapy (PT), Speech Therapy, and Occupational Therapy (OT)
- MercyCare Marion - PT
- Top Shape Gym (SW Cedar Rapids) - PT
- Core Fitness (North Liberty) - PT

Only therapies (PT, OT, Speech) provided at the 600 Medical Park building on Mercy's campus will remain under hospital-based billing due to requirements based on its co-location with additional services including Cardiac Rehab.

As you likely know, this means patients receiving therapies at the four locations listed above can now pay a co-pay for services. Previously, under hospital-based billing, patients paid coinsurance and a deductible.

Patients covered under Medicare have a common out-of-pocket expense regardless of billing structure. The 600 Medical Park location is ideal for these patients, both for Medicare coverage and its convenient location with parking just steps away from the entrance.

Mercy's experienced rehab team continues to accept referrals at all locations, and also offers additional subspecialties for many unique patient needs to address a range of medical and functional conditions. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Grudzinski at (319) 398-6801.

Mercy Outpatient Psychiatry launches alternative treatment for depression: TMS therapy

For patients living with major depression that cannot be improved with medication, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) therapy may finally bring the relief they've been waiting for. Mercy Medical Center's Outpatient Psychiatry now proudly offers this potentially life-changing treatment option — one of only a few Corridor providers to do so.

TMS is a relaxed, noninvasive, outpatient therapy that uses targeted magnetic pulses to rouse the section of the brain responsible for depressed mood. Psychiatrist Sundara Munagala, MD, guides the five-day-per-week treatment, which is typically complete in less than 30 minutes as the patient sits comfortably. TMS therapy is finished at the end of six weeks.

TMS is not covered by Iowa Medicaid at this time, but many private insurance companies may approve the therapy.

Prescribing providers with patients suffering from treatment-resistant depression are welcome to make TMS referrals to Dr. Munagala — or discuss any questions about this exciting treatment for major depressive disorder — by calling Mercy Outpatient Psychiatry at (319) 369-4777.

Allied Health Professionals pizza party



Mercy recognized National Allied Health Professionals Week (Nov. 4-10) with a pizza party (pictured). Mercy thanks you for everything you do! Your contributions are many; you take great pride in your work and, for that, we are grateful!

IOWA | NURSING

Save the Date

2019 NURSE PRACTITIONER PRECEPTOR RECOGNITION CONFERENCE

FREE AIRWAY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
FREE PHARMACOLOGY CEUs!



When: Saturday, February 9, 2019
Where: College of Nursing Building
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Cost: Free!



If you have precepted for the College of Nursing or are interested in precepting in the future, you are welcome to attend!

Nurse Practitioners, PAs, and Physicians are all welcome

Agenda, Registration details, and CEU breakdown will be available soon

For Questions contact: molly-james@uiowa.edu

MercyCare Provider Retreat

7:30 – 8 am
Breakfast

7:45 – 8 am
Welcome and Introduction
Colleen Keating, MD,
MercyCare Edgewood
MercyCare Medical Director of Provider
Communication



8 - 8:50 am
Monica Meeker, MD;
MercyCare Health Partners
and Merrilee Ramsey, ARNP;
MercyCare Medical District

Alcohol Addiction

*The provider will review/learn/
discuss:*

- How to screen for alcoholism
- Treatment options for alcoholism
- Personal story of alcoholism



**PLEASE RSVP BY
MONDAY, JANUARY 12**
to Laura Greif
lgreif@mercyCare.org
or (319) 398-6146

SCHEDULE SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019



8:50 – 9:40 am
**Terri Clark, RDN, LD and
Kristen Decker, RDN, LD;**
Mercy Medical Center

Evidence Based Nutrition for the Medical Provider

*The provider will learn/review/
discuss:*



- Specific diets that are effective, or not recommended, for specific medical conditions

- Nutrition information and trendy (common) fad diets
- Access to evidence-based educational materials on nutrition for both the patient and the medical provider



9:40 – 10:30 am
**Sajida Ahad, MD; Mercy
General Surgery**

Treatment of Obesity

*The provider will review/learn/
discuss:*

- Classification and evaluation of overweight and obese patient
- Discuss impact of voluntary weight loss on morbidity and mortality
- Review resources for treatment of obesity in primary care setting
- Update on bariatric surgery



10:30 – 11:20 am
**Hassan Sajjad, MD; Mercy
Pulmonology**

Smoking Cessation

*The provider will learn/
review/discuss:*

- The burden of tobacco abuse
- Smoking related medical problems
- Therapies for smoking cessation



11:20 – 12:10 pm
**Imran Hassan, MD; Mercy
General Surgery**

Updates in Colorectal Cancer Screening and Common Colorectal Problems

The physician will learn/review/discuss:

- The current recommendations for colorectal cancer screening
- Discuss the implications of the recent recommendations regarding changes in age for colorectal cancer screening
- Learn about the risks and benefits of different screening recommendations

12:15 – 1:15 pm – Lunch

(The following is an optional session for those who would like to attend during lunch. No CME credit is provided.)



12:30 to 1:30 pm
Tod Walker, PA-C

Epic Updates

- Discuss continued Epic note template building and end user customization
- Optimize in basket workflows
- Preview additional areas of physician builder projects

answer attendee Epic questions