



FEBRUARY 2012

Michigan Medical Directors Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues in long term care,

Your MiMDA Board has felt that we needed to reach out to others in long term care. Iris Boettcher spoke at the NADONA Meeting last summer and Mark Jackson spoke at the HCAM meeting in October, two opportunities to promote our organization and the value of Medical Directors in Long Term Care. In addition, on January 23, Iris Boettcher, Kris Gaumer, Jan Yonker, and I met in Lansing with Howard Schaefer, Director, Division of Nursing Home Monitoring, and Roxanne Perry, Director of Operations of the State Survey Teams. We introduced MiMDA and AMDA to them and emphasized that, as organizations and individuals, we had the same goal of improving care of our elderly residents. We explored common ground and a desire to collaborate on quality improvement. We feel the meeting was very successful. One of the results is that Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Perry will be speaking at our annual MiMDA Conference in October.

On that same day, Iris Boettcher, Jan Yonker, and I met with representatives of HCAM (Health Care Association of Michigan) including Dave LaLumia, President/CEO, Patricia Anderson, Executive VP, and Beth Bacon, VP of Regulatory Affairs. Again, we share joint goals of improving care for the elderly. From that meeting and the spirit of cooperation that ensued, I forwarded to all of you information on the RN Boot Camp, a training camp for DONs and leadership nurses, sponsored by NADONA and HCAM. HCAM has agreed to forward information on our fall conference to their members. Since that meeting, I have been contacted by Mr. LaLumia on a couple of issues that jointly affect HCAM and our nursing homes.

On an administrative note, Margaret Renfrow has resigned from her role as Treasurer and Chair of Membership Committee. Kris Gaumer has assumed Chair of Membership Committee and is working with Jan Yonker on getting a member survey out, as well as a brochure on MiMDA. The Treasurer position will be discussed at the Board Meeting in San Antonio in March.

Once again, MiMDA is sponsoring a Foundation Fellow for the AMDA Meeting in San Antonio in March. Her name is Shuvani Bhutani, MD, and she is currently a geriatric fellow in the Department of Geriatrics at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI. Dr. John (Jack) Voytas has generously donated half the support of MiMDA's sponsorship for Dr. Bhutani. On Wednesday, March 7, from 8-10 p.m., you can meet Dr. Bhutani and other Futures fellows at the Foundation reception at AMDA (refer to your program for location). This is a great time to come to meet and encourage these individuals interested in pursuing careers in long term care.



SAVE THIS WEBSITE: State of Michigan Nursing Home Monitoring Division website has invaluable information for medical directors. There are contact numbers, best practices, even a Q&A. Please review at:

http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,1607,7-154-27417_27655_27662---,00.html

**FROM A CLINICAL STANDPOINT:
MANDATORY INFLUENZA VACCINATION FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED IT FOR YOUR FACILITY? For the 2011-2012 influenza season, Munson Health Care in Traverse City instituted mandatory influenza vaccination for all staff and volunteers. We should be recommending a similar policy for our nursing homes and assisted living centers. Here is an overview from Sue Peters, VP of Human Resources, at Munson. She can be reached at [231.935.6491](tel:231.935.6491) or speters@mhc.net.

“Having an annual influenza vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza virus infection and its complications. To make the environment safer for its patients, Munson Healthcare required the flu vaccine for all employees, physicians and volunteers, beginning with the 2011-12 flu season. Research supported this action – studies show that when 100% of health care staff are vaccinated in the acute care setting, there is a 43% reduction in flu risk for hospitalized patients. And experience of hospitals around the country and in Michigan supported this action-nationally, more than 80 hospitals/systems have implemented a similar policy and in Michigan, Beaumont Hospitals, Bronson, Northern Michigan, and St. Joseph in Ann Arbor are some that have implemented similar policies. Through the implementation of this policy, Munson went from a 65% voluntary compliance rate the year before to close to 100% compliance this year. Munson’s policy allows for documented medical and religious exemptions. The decision to require the vaccine was supported by hospital leadership, the Board, and most importantly the physician leadership. This is one way that Munson has strengthened its commitment to patient safety.”

MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN THE ECF SETTING

I am curious as to the impact of the medical marijuana law in Michigan on nursing homes. I have no experience here in Traverse City. Has anyone any experience to share, or developed policy for their ECF? Please email me and I will share with our membership.

Mark Jackson at majdeerhunter@gmail.com



PHYSICIAN ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT (POLST)

In October, we heard a great talk on POLST from Jane Dinnen, RN, from Munson Medical Center on the use of POLST in our nursing homes and assisted livings. The document has been designed for our residents nearing end of life to express their wishes for care. Jane has provided a brief overview of POLST and an update on the status in Michigan. I would encourage use of this document in your facilities. Jane can be reached at Jdinnen@mhc.net.

See attachments:

1. PowerPoint saved in a PDF file for mailing (email michiganmda@gmail.com if you would like the slides version)
2. A Summary document of POLST in Michigan

QUESTION & ANSWER FOR HOWARD SCHAEFER, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF NURSING HOME MONITORING, AND ROXANNE PERRY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

MARK JACKSON: I have recently had several practicing alcoholics transferred from the hospital for Rehab at my facilities with orders such as Vodka 1 oz qid. When I contacted the hospitalist, he stated that the patient did not plan on quitting alcohol so he saw no need for detox while in the acute care hospital. I do not feel that alcohol is going to be beneficial for treating gait disorders, cognitive loss, diabetes, etc in the Rehab setting. I also worry about the liability of a fall or injury with a Resident with a measurable blood alcohol level, and have asked our Administrator to obtain a signed waiver from the Resident/responsible party. Do either of you feel that I, as attending physician or Medical Director, can require abstinence for a Rehab stay?

HOWARD SCHAEFER'S REPLY: I would ask two questions. Does the nursing home have a policy in this regard? Secondly, your rationale for not using alcohol with this patient in the rehab setting seems to me to justify an "against medical advice" decision. Roxanne reviewed your comments and also agrees that your concerns are all appropriate. It seems to me that you have good rationale for not writing an order for daily vodka use or not allowing an order for alcohol use for this patient in the rehab setting. You probably cannot, however, require or enforce abstinence. Family or friends may bring in alcohol and give it to the resident, and the resident may choose to drink it. If that is the case, a signed waiver may be an appropriate route so that the facility has documentation that they have explained risks of alcohol use for this rehab patient. I would also check on facility policy on alcohol use in the nursing home.

Do you have a question you would like to ask? Please send it to michiganmda@gmail.com



OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 747

SB 747 has been introduced by Senator Proos and would legislate a private exam room in nursing homes and assisted livings that could not be used for other purposes. Although the concept may have merit, I do not think that we need another layer of regulation from another entity. I have spoken with Senator Proos, and have written Senator Marleau, Chairman of the Senate Health Policy Committee. Please see my attached letter. Please contact me with your thoughts. Mark Jackson at majdeerhunter@gmail.com

MiMDA EVENTS

WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE IN SAN ANTONIO, ESPECIALLY AT OUR MICHIGAN CHAPTER MEETING ON FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 9, IN THE GRAND HYATT SAN ANTONIO, LONESTAR BALLROOM B, 6:00 – 7:30 PM!

AND REMEMBER TO PLAN ON ATTENDING OUR ANNUAL MEETING:

**October 5-6, 2012, Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI
Reserve your hotel room now!**

Details at:

<http://www.mimda.org/attendees/>

NOT A MiMDA MEMBER?

JOIN US at <http://www.amda.com/membership/benefits.cfm>