



NYU **Rusk** Institute of **Rehabilitation Medicine**

RUSK INSTITUTE REHABILITATION NETWORK

Fall 2007

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Message from Dr. Whiteson

Dear Colleagues,

This summer has been an exciting one for The Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network, and I am looking forward to an eventful fall season. Clinicians from like disciplines across acute and subacute settings have come together in recent months to enhance patient care through information sharing and collaboration. Staff development and dialogue around Stroke, Cardiopulmonary and Orthopedic care management continue to further improve programs at member facilities. In addition, new outreach, education, and quality management initiatives are underway. This season promises to be an exciting one, and I look forward to continued growth.

- Jonathan Whiteson, M.D.

Director of Outpatient and Continuing Care Services
Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network

Network News from the Councils

Quality Management

Dr. Ora Ezrachi, Manager, Rusk Patient Outcomes, recently visited all Quality Management Council representatives at their respective sites. She proposed introducing Network-wide software that would automatically download specified clinical data and eliminate the need to re-enter information manually on indicators such as falls, pressure ulcers, and pain in the subacute patient population.

In addition, Dr. Ezrachi advocated that all Rusk Network member facilities adopt the Functional Independence Measure, so we will have a consistent system for tracking patients' progress, particularly as they move from one phase of recovery to another. Now that there is consensus to move forward with this Network-wide initiative, a 'Train the Trainer' program will be organized at The Rusk Institute for subacute member representatives. This program will be run by staff from Uniform Data System (UDS). UDS offers various products including the FIM to measure the severity of disability as well as outcomes in medical rehabilitation settings.

Finally, Patient Satisfaction data has been collected from all seven subacute/Skilled Nursing Facilities for the fourth quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007. In the coming weeks, Dr. Ora Ezrachi will review and analyze the data and discuss results with each facility's Quality Management representative.

Medical Leadership

Dr. Jonathan Whiteson recently completed on-site visits to each Medical Director's home site, as a follow up to the last Medical Leadership council meeting. Topics discussed included: medical issues on the subacute unit, physicians from Tisch/Rusk/NYUHJD consulting on site

at subacute/Skilled Nursing Facilities within the Network, medical quality markers, CARF, and proposed new clinical programs. The next Medical Leadership meeting will convene on September 27.

Rehabilitation

The Directors of Rehabilitation from across the Network will meet again in September, with a focus on CARF. At the May meeting, the group discussed length of stay in the subacute setting, the impact of managed care on the course of rehabilitation across settings, and the move towards electronic medical charts. In addition, attendees from member subacute/Skilled Nursing Facilities toured Rusk Institute on 34th Street. This council will rotate sites for each of its meetings. In September, the meeting will be held at Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center in Brooklyn.

Nursing Management

Nurse Managers from member facilities met for the first time on August 1 at The Rusk Institute. Attendees included Nurse Managers from six of the seven subacute member facilities, as well as representative Nurse Managers from The Rusk Institute at 17th and 34th Streets. The purpose of the first meeting was for each representative to understand the roles and responsibilities of the other Nurse Managers in the acute and subacute settings. There was also extensive discussion about relevant nursing issues and an abundance of agenda items suggested for future meetings. The next meeting will be convened in October at Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, and will focus on the service of Rehabilitation Nursing.

Speech Language Pathology

After an initial meeting this winter, Speech-Language Pathologists from the various Network sites will meet again in October. The council is divided into two sub-groups: one, led by Patricia Lerner, Director of the Swallowing Disorder Center at Rusk, focuses on swallowing disorders; the other, led by Drs. Martha Sarno, Director of the Speech-Language Pathology

Department at Rusk, and Karen Riedel, Associate Director of the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Rusk, addresses speech and language disorders. The focus of the next meeting will be on Patient Education materials for patients with swallowing disorders and speech and language problems respectively.

Therapeutic Recreation

The Directors of Therapeutic Recreation have met twice, most recently in June. At the June meeting, services offered by the various Therapeutic Recreation departments across the Network were discussed. Other topics included the role of Therapeutic Recreation inpatient as well as staff education, and standards of care in the subacute population around assessment, treatment, documentation, and communication. The October meeting will focus on tailoring Therapeutic Recreation programs to the subacute population. The meeting will take place at Morningside House in the Bronx.

Admissions and Social Work

We look forward to convening the councils for both Social Work and Directors of Admissions this fall.

Office of Continuing Care Presents Update at Grand Rounds

Dina Pagnotta, Manager of Clinical Programs and Therapy Services in the Office of Continuing Care, presented an update on activities within the Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network at Grand Rounds on Wednesday, August 1. The presentation reviewed efforts around program and staff development in the areas of Cardiopulmonary, Stroke, and Orthopedic Care Management; outreach and education; integrated patient access and clinical information sharing Network-wide.

Village Care of New York Adult Day Program Revises Admission Criteria

Village Care of New York, the corporate entity of Village Nursing Home, has revised the criteria for admission to the short-term rehabilitation pilot program in their Day Care setting. Patients admitted to the hospital due to a tertiary event (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney or urinary tract infections, disequilibrium, respiratory disorders/infections (including asthma, bronchitis), pneumonia, congestive heart failure and cardiac arrhythmias, endocrine, nutritional and metabolic disorders. In order to qualify for the pilot program, patients must have experienced a functional decline as a consequence of the tertiary event. The general cardiopulmonary and stroke patient populations will continue to be included in the pilot program, as well.

Funded by a grant from the New York State Health Foundation, this program is free of charge to any Medicare-eligible patients that qualify for care in the Day Care setting. Therapies, nursing services as well as recreational activities, two meals and transportation are included. Patients may attend the program three to five days per week and receive up to five hours of services per day.

On-site Focus of Staff in the Office of Continuing Care

The managers of clinical programs and therapy/nursing services are spending a significant amount of time at each of the subacute affiliate facilities. Their role is to consult and make recommendations based on extensive on-site observations, targeted reviews of documentation, and discussion with the clinicians. These activities have enhanced communication and collaboration with clinical teams at each site.

Network Subacute/Skilled Nursing Facilities' Marketing Initiatives

All seven subacute/Skilled Nursing Facilities have revised or are in the process of revising their short-term rehabilitation brochures. In addition, they have all placed signage on their subacute units and/or on the outside of their buildings, stating their affiliation with The Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network. Several facilities have also sponsored advertisements on morning radio shows and in local papers.

Discharge Summary Initiative

The Office of Continuing Care has launched a new initiative in an effort to provide physicians at Tisch, NYUHJD, and Rusk with discharge summaries reflecting their patients' care in any Network affiliated subacute facility. This practice enhances continuity of care and re-enforces communication between providers.

Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network Brochure

An updated Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Brochure is currently in the design phase. The document is intended to provide information for perspective patients/families and clinicians about the various rehabilitation options within the Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network. While the brochure will be used as a tool for outreach and education about the larger Network, it will also provide patients with a user-friendly guide to the subacute member facilities.

Upgraded Rusk Network at-a-Glance

The Rusk Network-at-a-Glance, available on the Rusk Institute website under Patient

Services (click the Subacute Rehabilitation tab), has been updated to better serve patients and clinicians alike. This helpful reference sheet captures key clinical services rendered at each subacute/Skilled Nursing Facility member across the Network.

Outreach and Admissions

Over the course of several weeks, Clinical Liaisons from Rusk Outreach and Admissions met with the Directors of Admissions at subacute/Skilled Nursing Facility member facilities. The visits offered an opportunity to meet face to face, strengthen relationships, and tour each facility.

Celebrity Visits to Pediatric Unit at Rusk on 34th St.

Being in the hospital is difficult for anyone. It can be extremely difficult for children. Thanks to the generosity and caring of some local athletes, the patients on the Rusk Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit have had some sunny days during their admissions through a partnership with the Garden of Dreams Foundation. The year started off with a visit from three players from the NY Rangers: Peter Prucha, Marcel Hossa, and Matt Cullen. The patients challenged the players to a shots on goal contest and were able to show their skills. In March, the NY Knicks surprised the kids with a pizza party and gifts. In July, the Garden of Dreams continued their delivery of sunshine when they arranged for Tiffany Jackson and Cathrine Kraayeveld from the NY Liberty women's basketball team to deliver toys from the NY Liberty toy drive. In addition to all of the wonderful visits arranged by the Garden of Dreams, the children on the Rusk Pediatric Unit were also treated to visits from other celebrities. In May, 12 year old Cooper Pillot, from the Nickelodeon hit series, "The Naked Brothers Band" came with Project Sunshine and answered questions about being on TV and being famous. Most recently, the kids at Rusk were surprised during lunch when The Scottish Highlanders, Rory and Robbie

McCallister, from the WWE came to spend some time on the unit. In spite of the usual high energy on the pediatric unit, when your WWE idols show up for lunch, it can get pretty quiet, but that didn't last for long. We'll just have to wait and see who comes to see our kids next.

Summer Events

Celebration at St. Cabrini

On August 16, St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry celebrated its affiliation with the Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network. Speaking at the event were Dr. Jonathan Whiteson, Director of Rusk Outpatient Services and Continuing Care, James G. Karkenny, Executive Director, Office of Continuing Care, and Pat Krasnausky, President/CEO of Cabrini Eldercare Consortium, who recognized the value of the affiliation and St. Cabrini's excellence in areas of Cardiopulmonary, Stroke, and Orthopedic Care Management.

To raise awareness of the challenges faced by disabled patients, volunteers participated in an interactive workshop called 'Experience Disability,' in which they attempted activities of daily living with superimposed conditions such as hemiparesis (paralysis affecting only one side of the body) and speech deficits.

Garden Party and Concert Series at Margaret Tietz in Queens

On June 21, Margaret Tietz Nursing and Rehabilitation Center held its annual Garden Party for Social Workers, Case Managers and

Discharge Planners, as well as representatives from key community based groups. The Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network was among the sponsors of this event, and had a display table featuring brochures and information about Rusk programs across the continuum of care. Attendance was excellent and the Garden Party was a huge success!

Margaret Tietz Summer Concert Series

On June 14, July 19 and Aug. 16 Margaret Tietz held its summer concert series, featuring jazz musicians such as pianist Rick Della Ratta and Celtic Rock drummer and guitarist David Barckow. The series was held in the beautiful garden at Margaret Tietz and was open to the community. Friends of Margaret Tietz showed up in force to enjoy the music and festivities!

Upcoming Event

The community outreach subcommittee of the Rusk Marketing Committee is working diligently to plan an event on Wednesday, October 10, scheduled to take place at The Rusk Institute from 9am to 1pm.

This special event, titled "The Rusk Institute Rehabilitation Network: Knowing Your Health Care Options" will take the place of the traditional Senior Fitness Day, previously held yearly. Invitations will be sent to members of the larger Network community (surrounding New York University Hospitals Center and the seven subacute/Skilled Nursing Facilities) including both clinicians and non-clinicians. Several speakers are scheduled to present and various departments will set up information tables.

Did You Know?

Margaret Tietz Nursing and Rehabilitation Center:

- Expanded the gym space to 1600 square feet
- Will undergo a \$3-million-dollar project to construct a new, 2500-square-foot rehabilitation suite with private treatment rooms, training bathroom, and kitchen planned for this year. In all, a \$15-million-dollar building-wide renovation is planned over the next five years

Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center:

- Received a \$17 million right-sizing grant. They will be reducing approximately 150 beds and matching the \$17 million grant.
- Will undergo a \$34 million refurbishing project to create two floors of private rooms for the subacute unit over the next two years.

St. Cabrini Nursing Home:

- Is undergoing a \$55 million renovation to
 - Create more home like environment with private rooms, spa, coffee shop
 - Expand treatment areas with an Activities of Daily Living room to practice activities in the kitchen and bathroom as well as bed mobility
 - Add a speech therapy area with sound minimization

Village Nursing Home:

- Is building new facility with 105 total beds, 65 of which will be for subacute patients

Morningside House:

- Now prints patients' photos on their identification bracelets. This system provides another level of security related to medication management, wandering and ensuring that the correct treatment is administered to the correct patient.

Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation:

- Recently hired a new Nurse Practitioner and a Director of In-Service. Aline A. Shehigian, Nurse Practitioner, will be dedicated to the facility's subacute rehabilitation unit and is responsible for day-to-day medical management of the subacute patients in tandem with the physician and clinical team. Alison Helwig will be responsible for internal staff development at Cabrini.

Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center:

- Recently hosted a patient Olympics on the boardwalk in Coney Island, just outside of the facility. Patients from Menorah, Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center, and Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center competed in various activities and enjoyed the summer weather.

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Network News highlights programs and events at Rusk, NYUHJD, the seven Network subacute/skilled nursing facility (SA/SNF) affiliates, and Office of Continuing Care (OCC) initiatives and programs.

To submit story ideas, please contact Camille Luke, 212-404-3992.

Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine • NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases • Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation • Margaret Tietz Nursing and Rehabilitation Center • Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center (MJGC) • Morningside House Nursing Home • Saint Cabrini Nursing Home • Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center (SJGC) • Village Nursing Home