Clinical quality team ensures data is accurate reflection of clinical practice

“You can use all the quantitative data you can get, but you still have to distrust it and use your own intelligence and judgment.”

Alvin Toffler, an American writer and futurist, known for his works discussing the digital revolution and technology, recognized the importance of data to support decisions, but was clear that data is only valuable when combined with knowledge and experience to verify the data’s accuracy.

This was also the discovery of the Complications Tactical Team (formerly called the Harm Tactical Team), one of nine tactical teams in DeKalb Regional Health System’s clinical leadership model that integrates physicians, nurses and other hospital stakeholders in enhancing clinical quality.

Several steps taken by the Complications Tactical Team have resulted in significant reductions in the rate of hemorrhage, hematoma and seroma complications at both the North Decatur and Hillandale campuses. The team, which includes Adam Bressler, M.D., co-chair of the committee, John Kennedy, M.D., Cyril Spann, M.D., Cathy Bonk, M.D. and Solomon Tafari, M.D., along with representatives of appropriate health system departments, opted to forego the traditional review of complications by service line or specialty, and instead look at specific complications. When administrative data routinely listed bleeding complications at the top of the list at both the North Decatur and Hillandale campuses, the results were questioned by team members who were not seeing the same level of bleeding complications in daily practice.

Because data is based on medical record coding, the medical records department offered to review charts that included bleeding complications to evaluate the coding accuracy, explained Ellen Hargett RN, CPHQ, director of quality and process improvement. Coders were able to eliminate 50 percent of the cases due to coding issues, she said.

“Coders are trained to look for specific words or phrases to guide their activities, and in the cases eliminated from review, the words that indicated bleeding, without clarification that it was expected, were in the charts,” Hargett said.

Following medical records’ assessment, physicians reviewed the charts to confirm their findings and to evaluate all cases of bleeding complications to identify opportunities for improvement in clinical practice.

“As a result of the team’s findings, we are reminding physicians to include the word ‘expected’ in their notes if some oozing or bleeding is normal after the procedure,” Hargett said.

The medical records department has also provided additional guidance to coders to improve accuracy of the initial coding, which produces a more accurate clinical picture for external reports as well as internal quality improvement activities.

Medical Records now has a representative on the Complications Tactical Team to further enhance the team’s ability to evaluate complications from both a clinical and a coding perspective, said Hargett. By addressing documentation and coding issues first, the results were dramatic, she said.

“The complication rate for bleeding at North Decatur is the lowest it has been in two years.”

DeKalb Medical is recognized as a Top Performer according to Joint Commission

We are pleased to announce The Joint Commission has recognized DeKalb Medical as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures®. DeKalb Medical has been recognized for its excellence in accountability measure performance shown to improve care for certain conditions and is one of only 1,224 hospitals in the United States to achieve the distinction as a 2013 Top Performer.

Specific Guidance to Document Bleeding

When any bleeding occurs after a procedure is observed, be sure to include “expected” in notes on the chart, if the bleeding is normal and expected following the procedure. This prevents the case from being inaccurately coded as a hemorrhage, hematoma or seroma complication.
PHYSICIAN’S LOUNGE

Physicians elected to DPHO board

New board members for the DeKalb Physician Hospital Organization (DPHO) Board of Directors include Michael L. Baron, D.O., family medicine and David C. Snyder, pulmonology, who will each serve three-year terms on the board.


“We thank Drs. Kinstler and Kirschbaum for their many years of dedicated service to DPHO,” said Susan L. Helton, executive director of the DeKalb PHO.

The DPHO board is comprised of three primary care physicians (PCPs), three specialty care physicians (SCPs), and three hospital representatives. The six physician representatives are elected by the physician members of the DPHO network and serve rotating three-year terms. The hospital representatives are appointed by the hospital.

The other physician members of the DPHO board are: Chairman Albert Wildstein, M.D. (SCP – vascular surgery); Cathy Bonk, M.D. (SCP – OB/GYN); Martha Crenshaw, M.D. (PCP – family practice); and Jitendra Singh, M.D. (PCP – internal medicine). The hospital members of the DPHO board are: Duane Barclay, D.O., DeKalb Medical Physicians Group at Stonecrest Primary Care; John Shelton, president and chief executive officer; and Stephen Thomas, M.D., vice president of DeKalb Medical Physicians Group.

North Tucker Primary care opens new location, Budell joins practice

North Tucker Primary Care kicked off 2015 with a new location and the addition of William Budell, M.D., to the practice. Budell has an extensive background in primary care and preventive medicine and has practiced in the Atlanta area for over 30 years.

The new offices are located at 5019 Lavista Road and previously housed the practice of Rudolph Tacoronti, M.D., and Daniel Greenberg, M.D. North Tucker’s previous location on Mountain Industrial Boulevard closed on January 5, with the new office opening on January 12.

In addition to adding Budell to the practice, North Tucker Primary Care will also welcome Tran Trivedi, NPC, the current nurse practitioner for Tacoronti’s practice.

Atlanta Vascular Surgery, Momin newest to join DMPG

Atlanta Vascular Surgery is the newest practice of the DeKalb Medical Physicians Group with the addition of Takki Momin, M.D., to DMPG.

Momin completed his bachelor’s degree in chemistry with highest honors at The Georgia Institute of Technology and received his Doctorate in Medicine from Emory University School of Medicine. He completed general surgery at Emory and completed his specialty training in vascular and endovascular surgery at Georgetown University Hospital.

Momin has a particular interest in carotid disease, aortic aneurysm disease, endovascular aortic aneurysm repair, open and endovascular lower extremity revascularization, and hemodialysis access.

NEED-TO-KNOW NUMBERS

DeKalb Medical services that can help you help your patients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audiology, Driving Solutions</td>
<td>404.501.5155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Rehabilitation</td>
<td>404.501.7155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Calcium Scoring screening</td>
<td>404.501.2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartburn Solutions Center</td>
<td>404.501.4844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Cancer Screening</td>
<td>404.501.5864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition and Diabetes Center</td>
<td>404.501.1790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Rehabilitation</td>
<td>404.501.5140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lymphedema, Hand, Speech, Aquatic)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Disorders Center</td>
<td>404.501.5927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wound Care Center</td>
<td>404.501.7455</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CME program receives highest level accreditation

Physicians can continue to enjoy the convenience of pursuing continuing medical education (CME) through DeKalb Medical programs as a result of the Medical Association of Georgia’s (MAG) continued accreditation of the physician education program.

DeKalb Medical’s CME program was awarded Accreditation with Commendation and a six-year term.

“This is difficult to receive given the complexity of the accreditation requirements and policies, and we commend [DeKalb Medical’s] CME program for receiving the highest level of accreditation available to accredited CME providers,” said Andrew Baumann, director of education for MAG.

“We appreciate the support and guidance of Richard Corralli, M.D., chair of the DeKalb Medical physician’s education committee and Karen Muro, M.D., past chair, and recognize the efforts of Marilyn Barry and Sharon Atkinson for their dedication and hard work on the program over the past decade,” said Mary Muhammad, director of medical staff services.

A calendar of classes for which CME credit is awarded can be found on the physician section of the health system website, with frequent updates sent by email. **For more information about the CME program or to request a transcript of credits earned, practitioners contact the CME office at 404.501.5638 or email CME@dekalbmedical.org.**

Foundation thanks Founders’ Circle physician donors

Raoul Mayer, M.D., along with Melissa Seely-Morgan, M.D., medical vice chairs of the DeKalb Medical Foundation Board of Trustees, thank physicians who have generously supported the organization by becoming a member of the Founders’ Circle giving club. Physician members of the group are:

Suzana Anic, M.D.  
Sidney D. Appel, M.D.  
J. Michael Armand, M.D.  
Thomas W. Bantly, M.D.  
C. Duane Barclay, D.O.  
Kelvin K. Belcher, M.D.  
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Jonsey J. Jones, M.D.  
Ajay K. Joshi, M.D.  
Maurice Jove, M.D.  
Pranom K. Kaila, M.D.  
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Karen Schwartz, Ph.D.  
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Thomas Parrott, M.D.  
Mark Pollock, M.D.  
Michael A. Quinones, M.D.  
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Frank Rasler, M.D.  
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Melissa W. Seely-Morgan, M.D.  
Stanley W. Sherman, M.D.  
P. Tennent Slack, M.D.  
Cyril O. Spann Jr., M.D.  
Jayanthi Srinivasiah, M.D.  
Robert E. Stephenson III, M.D.  
Steven C. Storey, M.D.  
Wyrch O. Stubbs, M.D.  
Solomon Tafari, M.D.  
Rene A. Tapia, M.D.  
Terri TenHoor, M.D.  
Daniel Tesfaye, M.D.  
Stephen J. Thomas, M.D.  
Tina-Ann C. Thompson, M.D.  
William J. Vanderyt, M.D.*  
Roy W. Vandiver, M.D.  
Gail Hall Walker, M.D.  
James A. Walker, M.D.  
William G. Whitaker III, M.D.  
W. Hamilton Williams, M.D.  
S. Angier Wills, M.D.  
Jessica Yuen, M.D.  
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James A. Walker, M.D.  
William G. Whitaker III, M.D.  
W. Hamilton Williams, M.D.  
S. Angier Wills, M.D.  
Jessica Yuen, M.D.  
*deceased

If you would like more information about Founders’ Circle, please contact Leigh Minter, executive director of the DeKalb Medical Foundation at 404.501.5764 or leigh.minter@dekalbmedical.org.
Meet your community and patients at local events

The success of DeKalb Medical’s community outreach program relies upon participation of health system employees and physicians who volunteer their time to distribute educational information or perform screenings at local community events and festivals. Awareness of DeKalb Medical is increased but physicians also have an opportunity to meet members of the community and increase awareness of their practices.

To volunteer for any of the upcoming events, contact Beth Jansa, community outreach manager at 404.501.7481 or beth.jansa@dekalbmedical.org.

2015 EVENTS INCLUDE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>CrossRoads Health &amp; Wellness Expo</td>
<td>Stonecrest Mall, Lithonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Tour Decatur 5K</td>
<td>Decatur High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21-22</td>
<td>Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival</td>
<td>International Horse Park, Conyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28-29</td>
<td>Stone Mountain Bluegrass &amp; Arts Festival</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome NEW PHYSICIANS
December 2014

Downtown Decatur Hospital (Long-Term Acute Care) – Medicine
Daniel P. Loren, M.D.

Family Medicine
Benroe W. Blount, M.D.
Sandhya Pattem, M.D.

Hospitalist
Theodore O. Anuebunwa, M.D.
Bhavinkumar P. Patel, M.D.