



## Regional Medical Director's Newsletter

### AHS Organizational Structure

Dr. David Megran, AHS Senior Physician Executive, has committed to ensuring that medical leadership at the Zone Level is representative of community as well as acute care physicians. We are awaiting announcements of the AHS Medical Director for Seniors Health, as well as the Zone Medical Directors. Other medical leadership at the Zone Level will be determined once the Zone leads are in place.

### Influenza

WHO has raised the status of the H1N1 pandemic alert to level 6; a letter from Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Director General, can be found at [www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1\\_pandemic\\_phase6\\_20090611/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_pandemic_phase6_20090611/en/index.html). As you are aware, this virus has generally been causing mild symptoms and is affecting primarily younger people. Concerns are significant about mutation of the virus with increased virulence over the coming months. Dr. Marcia Johnson has recently written a letter to community physicians with current recommendations for management of patients presenting with fever and cough in the community. We are anticipating 3 vaccinations in the fall, one for the regular seasonal influenza and two for H1N1. A meeting was held to look at preparedness of community physicians in the event of a major influenza outbreak in our region. The role of medical leaders in the community in planning and decision making, as well as access to information, supplies, and medication were discussed. These will be discussed with Dr. Johnson and with our Zone VP, Marianne Stewart. We are recommending inclusion of physician representatives from Primary Care and Community Care in the planning.

### Teledermatology in LTC

Community Care Services is working with Dr. Jaggi Rao to implement teledermatology throughout LTC. This will help in obtaining a timely and efficient dermatological consultation using a secure and confidential web-based teledermatology system. A donor for digital cameras has been identified. For more information, please visit [www.consultderm.com](http://www.consultderm.com)

### Facility Living Capacity Assessment

Community Care has established a steering committee for introducing the Covenant Health "Capacity Assessment" model into continuing care facilities. Principles of this model include the presumption that all adults are presumed capable of making their own decisions until contrary is demonstrated, and that capacity is not 'all or nothing', but specific to a decision that needs to be addressed. Facility Living in collaboration with Dr. Jasneet Parmar have scheduled three information sessions (1.5 hours) for supportive and facility living staff on Capacity Assessment. The first is June 15 at Capital Care Grandview, and the following two sessions are in the fall. Four hour workshops will be offered in the fall for formal training of facility Capacity Assessors; physicians would be welcome to attend either the information sessions or workshops.

### Tissue and Organ Donation

There is an increasing need for organ and tissue donation. Individuals 80 years of age or younger with advanced diseases, certain cancers and terminal illness may be eligible for eye and tissue donation. All potential donors are assessed on a case by case basis. Please call 1-866-407-1970 for more information.

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#### Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- Next CCMAC for Medical Advisors is Thursday, September 24, 2009 at Plaza 124, 3rd floor, Central Meeting Room. 7:30-8:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you!
- Mark your calendars, the Continuing Care Medical Staff AGM has been scheduled for November 5, 2009 at the Edmonton Petroleum Club. Stay tuned for further details.