



Physicians Committed
to Quality

healthy practices mvma ipa

An important announcement from
Richard B. Toll, M.D., MVMA President

Contacting MVMA Staff

David Phelps, MD
Medical Director
dphelps@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2647

Clifford Elson, MD
Associate Medical Director
celson@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2076

James Saperstone, MD
Associate Medical Director
jsaperstone@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2076

Deb Zadrozny, RN
Executive Director
dzadrozny@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2690

Sharlene Campbell
Administrative Assistant
scampbell@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2461

Lisa Buck
Professional Liaison
lbuck@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2605

Sarah Ghent, RN
Professional Liaison
sghent@mvphhealthcare.com
518.388.2246



Guidelines for CT Scans - Pulmonary Nodules

MVMA recently conducted a small study on the frequency of follow-up CT scans for an initial finding of pulmonary nodules. We applied the criteria cited in *Radiology* 2005; 237:395-400 regarding Fleischner Society Guidelines on the Management of Pulmonary Nodules. These guidelines were recently presented for informational purposes to the MVP Quality Improvement Committee members, which includes MVMA physician representatives. This prompted our desire to look further.

We reviewed the office notes related to the ordering of the initial chest CT, the interpretation of the initial and follow-up scans, and risk factors that the patients may have had, such as smoking or exposure history. The study was not intended to be critical of care provided. Our only interest was to compare the frequency of follow-up scans to the guidelines.

The MVMA Peer Review Committee reviewed the findings, which indicated that follow-up CT scans were consistently performed more frequently than the guidelines suggest. The committee discussed a variety of reasons for this. Radiologists are not always apprised if the patient is a smoker or has a primary cancer elsewhere, which makes it difficult to determine the risk and subsequent recommendations for follow-up. The patient coming through the emergency department may have had an abdominal CT scan with a finding on the lung bases too small to classify, but could not be ignored. There are varying opinions within radiology groups as to what the frequency of follow-up scans should be, although noted that there is awareness of the Fleischner Society Guidelines.

The committee and the MVMA Board of Directors unanimously determined that the Fleischner Society Guidelines be reinforced with emphasis on the need for the ordering physician to send information to the radiologist regarding the risk and history since the key is to follow up on the risk of cancer. The committee strongly suggested that the criteria be printed on each imaging interpretation. The criteria can be found online at <http://radiology.rsna.org>.

We welcome your comments regarding this issue, which may be directed to David Phelps, MD, MVMA Medical Director at 388-2461 or dphelps@mvphhealthcare.com.

In-Office and Free-standing Facility Imaging Accreditation

Medical imaging is an integral component of quality medical practice. Accurate imaging studies help physicians make the proper diagnosis and document patient response to therapy. Over the past decade, there has been a significant movement of imaging out of hospitals into physician offices and free-standing facilities. These "outside images" are performed without the usual oversight provided by hospital licensing requirements.

For the past five years, MVMA has required accreditation of in-office OB/GYN diagnostic ultrasounds. UnitedHealthcare, one of the country's largest insurers, will require that accreditation be either in place or "in-progress" by the third quarter of 2008 for a wide range of imaging studies including (but not limited to) CT, MRI, nuclear cardiology, PET, and echocardiography.

In order to maximize the quality of imaging studies that our patients receive, MVMA has decided to require free-standing and in-office facilities that offer MRI, CT, echocardiography, and vascular studies to become accredited in order to receive reimbursement. The American College of Radiology (ACR) and the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) provide acceptable accreditation programs. The ACR is introducing a modular MRI accreditation program to accommodate practices that provide limited MRI imaging (e.g., musculoskeletal). MVMA will require either accreditation or "in-progress" status by **July 1, 2009**. Because the accreditation process can be lengthy, if you offer any of the imaging services mentioned visit www.acr.org or www.intersocietal.org soon to learn more. Please

check future newsletters and direct mailings for more specific information regarding our new accreditation policy.

[*“in-progress” indicates that a complete application was received by the accreditation organization. During this pending status (not more than 12 months), claims will not be denied.]

Physicians Rewarded for Meeting Quality-of-Care Goals

MVP and MVMA have teamed up with the National Committee for Quality Assurance’s (NCQA) evaluation program and Physician Practice Connections (PPC) to recognize physician practices that use clinical information and technology to positively impact patient care. MVP with MVMA are very pleased to announce the participating primary care physicians and specialists who achieved 2007 PPC certification, successfully completed an add-on survey, or were certified in 2006 at levels 2 or 3. This honor recognizes these practice sites and their commitment to improving the quality of patient care delivery systems.

Future editions of this newsletter will highlight those physicians achieving any of the physician certification programs in 2008. This year all primary care physicians providing care at a site that became PPC-certified in 2007 qualified for a reward payment based on the number of MVP fully insured commercial members on the physician’s panel at that site. These reward checks were mailed in May 2008.

More information regarding PPC reward program or applying for PPC recognition, information can be found at: <http://www.ncqa.org/ppc/>

In addition to the primary care physicians (PCPs) who were eligible for the pay-for-performance program, the following list on page 3 recognizes PCPs and specialists who were PPC certified in 2007.

2008 Top Performing Physicians, Practices Based on Quality Performance

Annually MVP and MVMA recognize participating physicians who provide outstanding quality of care in the following categories: diabetic care, preventative care, and medical home, a new category that looks at integrated and accessible care.

Diabetic Care

These physicians/groups below ensured that members with diabetes received the testing required to help patients achieve the American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommended control of their diabetes. Recognition is based on meeting the following criteria:

- Testing their patients’ blood at least annually for HbA1c (a 3-month average of their patients’ blood sugar) and having it in the normal range (under 7mg/dl)
 - Testing their patients’ cholesterol at least annually and having their patients’ LDL in the normal range (less than 100 mg/dl)
- Five Corners Family Practice (Rotterdam)
Kevin Cope, M.D. (Broadalbin)
William Mayer, M.D. (Broadalbin)
St. Mary’s Hospital Family Practice (Amsterdam)
Capital Care Internal Medicine, Balltown Road (Schenectady)

Preventative Care for Family Practice Physicians

The following physicians/group practices provided adolescent members with outstanding guidance in two key areas of development – drug and alcohol screening and Body Mass Index.

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| Capital Care Balltown Road (Schenectady) | Five Corners Family Practice (Rotterdam) |
| Capital Care Rotterdam (Rotterdam) | Irongate Family Practice Physicians (Glens Falls) |
| Capital Care McClellan Street (Schenectady) | Scotia Glenville Family Medicine (Scotia) |

Preventive Care for Internal Medicine (adult and childhood)

These physicians/groups provided outstanding preventive care based on current national guidelines, for men and women colorectal screening if they meet the age requirements, Body Mass Index (BMI) for both adults and adolescents and drug/alcohol screening for adolescents.

- Capital Care Balltown Road (Schenectady)
Capital Care Charlton (Charlton)
Capital Care Nott Street (Schenectady)

Medical Home Designation

These physicians/groups provided the ability to get care that is easily accessible, complete, and integrated.

Community Care Physicians (Scotia)
Scotia Glenville Family Medicine (Scotia)
Adirondack Medical Associates (Glens Falls)
Sun Medical (Scotia)
Capital Care Carmen Road (Rotterdam)

“MVP believes in recognizing physicians and group practices that consistently demonstrate outstanding performance in key areas of quality care and utilization,” says Jerry Salkowe, M.D., MVP vice president for clinical quality improvement. “The MVP Quality Improvement department strives to provide participating providers with data and practical tools to help providers integrate evidence-based recommendations into their daily practices. Ultimately, it all comes down to the quality of care our members receive and their satisfaction.”

MVP’s commitment to quality care includes its Annual Quality of Care Report, Hospital Quality Report, and health management programs. MVP’s QI team offers these additional online resources, and more, to help members actively participate in their care and better manage their health. For additional information about MVP’s quality improvement initiatives, visit www.mvphealthcare.com and click on *Health Central*.

2007 PPC Certified PCPs and Specialists

Gerald Abess, MD, Family Practice
Arsenio Agopovich, MD, Family Practice
Hendrick Arnold, MD, Internal Medicine
John Bashant, DO, Internal Medicine
Lisa Bevilacqua, DO, Family Practice
Donald Bielawski, MD, Pediatrics
Judith Bodnar, MD, Internal Medicine
Gayle Buckley, MD, Pediatrics
Christopher Buff, DO, Family Practice
Carol Burgess, MD, Internal Medicine
William Busino, MD, Internal Medicine
Amy Champion, DO, Family Practice
Margaret Carley, MD, Internal Medicine
Raymond Carrelle, MD, Family Practice
Michael Celotti, DO, Pediatrics
Denis Chagnon, MD, Family Practice
Cindy Chan, MD, Internal Medicine
Prabhakar Chava, MD, Internal Medicine
Jung-Wen Chen, MD, Internal Medicine
Ying Chen, MD, Pediatrics
James Cioffi, MD, Internal Medicine
Emanuel Cirenza, MD, Pediatrics
Holly Cleney, MD, Family Practice
Jorge Constantino, MD, Cardiology
Thomas Coppens, MD, Family Practice
Ligaya Cosico, MD, Pediatrics
Steffani Cotugno, DO, Family Practice
David Cunningham, MD, Family Practice
Jose David, MD, Family Practice
Miguel Diaz, MD, Family Practice

Robert Donohue, MD, Internal Medicine
Susan Dorsey, MD, Internal Medicine
Mary Drislane, MD, Internal Medicine
Thomas Duff, MD, Pediatrics
Martin Echt, MD, Cardiology
Rebecca Elliott, MD, Family Practice
Kimberly Elmer, MD, Pediatrics
Craig Emblidge, MD, Family Practice
Robert Evans, DO, Family Practice
Stephanie Evans, MD, Pediatrics
Paul Fillion, MD, Family Practice
Grahame Fitz, MD, Family Practice
Roberta Flesh, MD, Internal Medicine
Alan Fogel, MD, Internal Medicine
Roy Fruiterman, MD, Internal Medicine
Paul Gaffuri, MD, Pediatrics
Vijaya Gandham, MD, Pediatrics
Michael Gardner, MD, Internal Medicine
James Gaylord, MD, Family Practice
Paul Gebhard, Jr., MD, Internal Medicine
Rebecca Gildersleeve, MD, Pediatrics
George Giokas, MD, Internal Medicine
Constance Glasgow, MD, Pediatrics
Steven Goldberg, MD, Cardiology
Jill Gradner, MD, Internal Medicine
Stephen Grant, MD, Family Practice
Carol Greenblatt, DO, Pediatrics
Michael Greenblatt, MD, Internal Medicine
Saaket Gupta, MD, Internal Medicine
Robert Halbig, MD, Family Practice

Audra Hanley, MD, Family Practice
Jami Hawthorne, MD, Pediatrics
Ronald Hoenzsch, MD, Internal Medicine
Daniel Hubicki, MD, Family Practice
Philip Hunter, DO, Family Practice
Donald Jue, MD, Internal Medicine
Shelley Justa, MD, Family Practice
Ara Kayayan, MD, Internal Medicine
Kyounghee Kim, MD, Pediatrics
Regina Kim, MD, Family Practice
Stephen Kineke, MD, Family Practice
Thomas Klepetar, MD, Internal Medicine
John Koella, MD, Family Practice
Hadi Koohsari, MD, Pediatrics
Heather Kopff, DO, Internal Medicine
William Kowal, MD, Internal Medicine
David Krischer, MD, Internal Medicine
Gary Kronick, MD, Internal Medicine
Kenneth Kroopnick, MD, Pediatrics
Laura Lecours, MD, Pediatrics
Leonard Leonidis, MD, Internal Medicine
Denise Letteriello, DO, Internal Medicine
James Leyhane, MD, Internal Medicine
Paul Lundgren, MD, Cardiology
Rakesh Malhotra, MD, Internal Medicine
Anthony Marinello, MD, Family Practice
Anne Marthy-Noonan, MD, Pediatrics
Kristin Martin, MD, Family Practice
Eugene Merecki, MD, Family Practice
Philip Mika, MD, Internal Medicine
Harry Miller, MD, Pediatrics
Ranford Miller, MD, Cardiology
Nilofar Mir, MD, Internal Medicine
Swatantra Mitta, MD, Pediatrics
Barbara Morris, MD, Pediatrics
R Scott Morris, MD, Cardiology
Christine Murphy, MD, Internal Medicine
Ronald Musto, MD, Internal Medicine
Brian Navarro, MD, Family Practice
Mark Nelson, MD, Cardiology
Timothy Nicholson, MD, Internal Medicine
Robert Nielson, MD, Family Practice
James Noonan, MD, Internal Medicine
Louis Papandrea, MD, Cardiology
Nita Parikh, MD, Internal Medicine
Arsenio Pascual, MD, Pediatrics
Pratima Patel, MD, Pediatrics
Michael Perazzelli, MD, Internal Medicine
Kimberly Peregrin, DO, Internal Medicine

Anthony Petracca, MD, Family Practice
John Pezzulo, DO, Family Practice
David Phelps, MD, Internal Medicine
Laura Pica, MD, Internal Medicine
Marc Price, DO, Family Practice
Beulah Puthuparampil-Mehta, DO, Pediatrics
Robert Quimby, MD, Internal Medicine
Mary Rappazzo, MD, Internal Medicine
Robert Reeves, MD, Family Practice
Jacob Reider, MD, Family Practice
Charles Richman, MD, Pediatrics
Kerry Ricker, DO, Family Practice
Peter Rienzi, MD, Internal Medicine
Zandra Rios-Rivera, MD, Internal Medicine
Patricia Sanders, MD, Internal Medicine
Eric Schnakenberg, MD, Family Practice
Edward Sessa, MD, Pediatrics
Stephen Sipperly, DO, Family Practice
Christine Smith, MD, Family Practice
Sushila Sood, MD, Pediatrics
Stephen Sorrentino, MD, Internal Medicine
Karen Spinelli, MD, Pediatrics
Katherine Stam, DO, Family Practice
Arthur Stevens, MD, Internal Medicine
Jeffrey Stone, MD, Family Practice
Gregory Strizich, MD, Internal Medicine
Adele Strominger, MD, Internal Medicine
Stefan Swicker, MD, Pediatrics
Theodore Talma, MD, Pediatrics
William Tedesco, MD, Family Practice
William Tetreault, MD, Family Practice
Rommel Tolentino, MD, Internal Medicine
Richard Toll, MD, Internal Medicine
Benoit Tonneau, MD, Internal Medicine
Crisanto Torres, MD, Cardiology
Charles Trout, MD, Internal Medicine
Sherri Lynn Tucker, MD, Family Practice
Francois Vachon, DO, Family Practice
Wendy Van Bellingham, MD, Family Practice
James Walders, MD, Internal Medicine
Pamela Walders, MD, Pediatrics
Laurence Weiner, MD, Internal Medicine
Birute Wise, MD, Pediatrics
Michael Wolff, MD, Internal Medicine
Winston Wong, MD, Pediatrics
Margaret Woods, MD, Pediatrics
Norbert Woods, MD, Pediatrics
Richard Yan, MD, Pediatrics
Asim Yousuf, MD, Internal Medicine