

## December 2009 (Monthly update for physicians)

### H1N1

H1N1 vaccine is now widely available to all Novant health care workers & physicians. Because we want to ensure the health and safety of our patients and staff, mandatory masking will be enforced for those persons who decline vaccination and provide patient care or services within six feet of patients.

### Key Dates to Remember

- **Dec. 9, 2009:** Last day to take the vaccine or complete the declination form before mandatory masking begins on Dec. 14.
- **Dec. 14, 2009:** All employees who declined the vaccine and who provide care or service within six feet of patients will be required to start masking.
- **Dec. 14 – Until:** H1N1 vaccine may be available through the local EOH offices if an employee changes his/her mind and chooses to take the vaccine rather than mask. Shipments from the state health department vary weekly, so we cannot guarantee availability.

### New Heparin Concentration

On December 15th, many variables associated with the utilization of the drug heparin will change. These changes include the concentration of the IV infusions that are dispensed by the pharmacy and the laboratory values utilized to monitor both safety and efficacy.

Fortunately, this formulation of heparin is almost exclusively prescribed with an order set, and the required document adjustments will be completed at the December 4th Order Set Committee meeting. Yet to ensure that everyone is aware of the pending changes, they are listed below:

- The dispensed concentration of the IV heparin formulation will change from 50 units/ml (25,000 units/500ml) to 100 units/ml (25,000/250ml).
- Laboratory monitoring will change from PTT levels to anti-Xa levels

### New ADA Calorie Diets

Effective 12/08/09, the ADA diets at FMC and MPH are changing from calorie levels to carb-controlled levels. Please start using the new names in your orders beginning on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec. Both names will be interchangeable until at least the end of the year. New ADA diet names:

- ADA-LOW: Calorie levels up to 1600
- ADA-MED: Calorie levels 1700-1900
- ADA-HI: Calorie levels 2000 and above (orders for 2800 cal., ADA will get “no concentrated sweets” diet)
- ADA-Gestational: All pregnant patients who need an ADA diet

### 2009 Case of the Year

Congratulations to **C. Ray Workman, MD** for winning the 2009 Case of the Year. Thanks to all presenting physicians for making this one of the most interesting and highly competitive Case of the Year competitions yet.

### First Do No Harm

With patient safety being our highest priority, Novant Health has enlisted the assistance of HPI to analyze our organization's current safety culture and provide evidence based recommendations that will reduce errors by 80% over the next two years. “Know Five, Save Lives” encompasses low-risk behaviors that will reduce the likelihood for error. As medical staff, we look to you for leadership as we enhance our culture of safety. In 2010, all medical staff will be required to complete two online safety courses. Each course has been approved for 1CME. For more information, please contact the Medical Staff Services office.

### New Physicians who have joined the Medical Staff during November

Rolih, Catherine A., MD

Forsyth Endocrine Consultants