



GW Medicine Notes

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MFA Institutes e-Prescribe Organization-Wide

March 1, 2010 marks the beginning of electronic prescribing organization-wide at the GW Medical Faculty Associates. Prescriptions written by providers in the Allscripts electronic health record will now be transmitted directly from computer to computer without a paper fax intermediary. Medicare has established a program to reward providers who prescribe electronically with incentive payments as a means of encouraging improved patient care. Electronic prescribing is also a key component in the proposed "Meaningful Use" requirements which will provide further stimulus funds for practitioners who successfully adopt and use an electronic health record.

E-prescribing will benefit MFA patients by providing legible prescriptions directly to the pharmacy, updating and maintaining an accurate medication history in the patient's chart and increasing the ease of prescription refills for patients and providers. The use of the electronic record will also help to decrease medication errors in prescribing. Patients can request prescriptions on-line directly through TouchWorks (via Patient-on-line) or they can

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From the Chairman

Alexander Haig died recently; a stranger individual in politics probably has not existed although Ollie North would probably give him a run. But my relationship with Haig was much more personal. We shared a locker at the Burning Tree Country Club. Actually, it was his locker and I played there once a few years ago. An invited guest, I was told I could use his locker as he hadn't been seen playing golf in a few years. Somehow using his locker added to the experience at Burning Tree although there wasn't anything special about or in the locker. A set of old golf clubs, a few hats, an umbrella, but way in the back of the top shelf (of course I scoured that locker) was a button that read "I am in Charge."

Ok, not really, but wouldn't that have been great. The poor guy was a Four Star General, Supreme Commander of NATO, Chief of Staff to two Presidents, Secretary of State under Reagan, and for a very short time a Presidential contender, and what he is most remembered for is telling the world he was in charge at the White House after Reagan was shot in 1981.

But it is likely that Haig kept this country running, as Chief of Staff, while the Watergate scandal was breaking around Richard Nixon. (Now for the Health Care part of this article.) Woodward and Bernstein wrote that Haig ordered doctors to take away Nixon's tranquilizers and sleeping pills for fear that he might commit suicide. How absurd! Nixon was too self indulged to commit suicide and was more likely to take down the government before taking down himself.

Now back to Burning Tree. Terrific experience; ok golf course, in fact fairly easy even for an over 30 handicapper like myself, but what great stories! Burning Tree of course was (is) most famous in DC for giving up its tax exempt status rather than allowing women on the course. There are no women's tees and no women's bathrooms, in fact women are not allowed on the grounds except for Christmas Eve when they are allowed into the clubhouse to shop for presents for their husbands. (Kid you not.) One of the best stories involved a small prop plane that had to make an emergency landing on the course. The pilot was a woman, and she was promptly escorted off the grounds.

Eisenhower was one of many Presidents that played at Burning Tree, and the story goes that when the Washington Beltway was designed he had it moved slightly north so the grounds at Burning Tree would not be invaded. Now that is clout. I don't remember how I played the day I was there. Even though the course is short and without water traps, I probably still didn't break 100. But using Al Haig's locker and listening to all the great stories made it a special day.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE**

**END-OF-THE-YEAR
PARTY**

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010

**FOUR SEASONS
WASHINGTON DC
HOTEL**

Department of Medicine March 2010 Grand Rounds

Mar 4 "Type 1 Diabetes Management and Prevention Strategies"

Michael Thompson, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Department of Medicine
George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Mar 11 "The Borderland Between Gastroenterology and Psychiatry: Clinical Issues, Diagnostic Challenges, and Treatment Approaches"

Catherine Crone, MD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Director, GWU Psychosomatic Medicine Fellowship Program
Inova Fairfax Hospital
Fairfax, Virginia

Mar 18 "Topics in Esophageal Pathology"

Elizabeth Montgomery, MD

Professor of Pathology and Oncology
Director, Clinical Gastrointestinal Pathology
Johns Hopkins University

Mar 25 "Parasomnias"

Vivek Jain, MD, D, ABSM

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director, GW Sleep Disorders Center
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
Department of Medicine
George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. GWUMC designates this continuing medical education activity on an hour-for-hour basis in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

Medicine Team Contacts

ADMITTING RESIDENT (202) 715-6034 (CELL)

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BLUE TEAM	(202) 715-6156
SILVER TEAM	(202) 715-6040
PURPLE TEAM	(202) 715-6042
GOLD TEAM	(202) 715-6044

Cardiology Grand Rounds

5:00 PM, GWU Hospital, Conference Room 6-116

Mar 3 M & M

Mar 10 **Susan Hasselquist, MD**
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Disorders Medicine
Department of Medicine
GWU Medical Faculty Associates
Pulmonary Hypertension

Mar 17 **Conference Canceled**
American College of Cardiology

Mar 24 **Michael Thompson, MD**
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Department of Medicine
GWU Medical Faculty Associates
Diabetes and the Heart

Mar 31 **Rodeen Rahbar, MD**
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
GWU Medical Faculty Associates
Endovascular Aneurysm Repair

Resident Lecture Series March 2010 Noon Conference

Mar 1 **Primary Care Lecture Series**
Mar 2 **Resident Survey - Dr. Nancy Gaba**
Mar 3 **GME Lecture Series**
Mar 4 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Mar 5 **Chairman's Rounds**
Mar 8 **Primary Care Lecture Series**
Mar 9 **Public Health Grand Rounds**
Mar 10 **"Capacity Evaluations" - Dr. Lorenzo Norris**
Mar 11 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Mar 12 **Chairman's Rounds**
Mar 15 **Primary Care Lecture Series**
Mar 16 **"CPC" - Dr. Ashte Collins & Dr. Sian Spurney**
Mar 17 **"Leukemia" - Dr. Imad Tabbara**
Mar 18 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Mar 19 **Chairman's Rounds**
Mar 22 **Primary Care Lecture Series**
Mar 23 **Geri/Psych/Palliative Care Lecture**
Mar 24 **Mortality & Morbidity Conference**
Mar 25 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Mar 26 **Chairman's Rounds**
Mar 29 **Primary Care Lecture Series**
Mar 30 **"TBA" - Dr. Baran Kilical**
Mar 31 **Journal Club**

E-Prescribe Effective 3/01/2010 Throughout MFA

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ask the pharmacist to contact their providers directly by computer, thus minimizing phone calls and delays in filling prescription requests. The electronic orders can also be sent directly to mail order providers via TouchWorks without a printed signature. E-prescribing should help to ensure that patients can more easily obtain their prescriptions and keep their medical records up-to-date.

Medical Center Mourns the Loss of Dr. Karl Wipplinger

Dr. Karl Wipplinger, Emeritus Associate Professor of Medicine passed away at his home in Alexandria from congestive heart failure on February 17, 2010. Dr. Wipplinger served on the medical faculty at the George Washington University Department of Medicine for 45 years, having served as the Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine. He retired from clinical practice in 1994 but continued teaching until 2002. He received the medical school's outstanding teaching award on multiple occasions.

Dr. Wipplinger was born in Steyr, Austria. He received his medical degree from the University of Vienna's medical school in 1953 and trained in internal medicine at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Linz, Austria. He completed a residency in internal medicine at GWU and then joined the faculty. He ran the Department of Medicine's morning report conference for more than 30 years.

Dr. Wipplinger is survived by his second wife, Lorraine.

Chairman's Rounds

GWU Hospital Auditorium, 12:00 Noon
All Faculty Invited to Attend

Mar 5	<p>Dr. Marianne Carim Dr. Anne Cioletti</p>
Mar 12	<p>Dr. Leigh Bornstein Dr. Nina Kukar</p>
Mar 19	<p>Dr. Laurence Busse Dr. David Ni</p>
Mar 26	<p>Dr. Shervin Shafa Dr. Avni Shah</p>

Department to Rename Urgent Care Clinic

In our attempt to rename the current "Urgent Care Clinic" to better reflect the operation of the clinic, Dr. Wasserman asked for suggestions from the department faculty. Many ideas have flooded in. Submissions including the words "immediate", "same day", "walk in" or "urgent" were eliminated since the clinic offers scheduled access for triaged problems, usually within 24 to 48 hours, but can't promise same day appointments. Some strong contenders are:

Accelerated Care Clinic
Access Clinic
Acute Care Clinic
Acute Illness Clinic
ASAP Clinic
Easy Access Clinic
Express Care Clinic
Facilitated Access Clinic
Get-in-Quick Clinic
Interim Care Clinic
Priority Appointment Clinic
Priority Access Clinic
Priority Clinic
Quick-Care Clinic
Rapid Access Clinic

And some potentially humorous submissions include:

Two Minute Clinic
The Penalty Box
The Blue Line
Last Minute Clinic
Last Chance Clinic
Just-in-Time Clinic
"Catherine's Comprehensive Care" Clinic
"Faster than the 4th Floor" Clinic
"My Regular Doctor Doesn't Want to See Me" Clinic
"Next Time I'll Keep My Regularly Scheduled Appointment" Clinic
The Stephen Trachtenberg Limited University Involvement Center for Patients who wanted to be seen yesterday

And the winner is ?

A GW Frontiers in Medicine Lecture **The Empowered Patient: The Truth Behind Drugs, Herbs and Vitamins** **Reschedule to New Date**

The lecture entitled "The Empowered Patient: The Truth Behind Drugs, Herbs and Vitamins", was postponed due to last month's inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 9, beginning with a reception at 6:30 pm and a panel discussion at 7:00 pm. The event will be held at GW's Jack Morton Auditorium, located at 805 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The lecture is open to the public. To RSVP or for more information contact Theresa Kerrigan at (202) 994-4695 or mcctak@gwumc.edu.

Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule March 2010

Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 am ACC 1-401, 1:30 - 3:30 pm Hospital Rm 6-106
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

- Mar 4 Journal Club
Seema Agrawal, MD
- Mar 4 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Mar 11 Research Conference
Patience White, MD, Professor of Medicine
Advertising Council Campaign
- Mar 11 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Mar 17 DC Rheumatism Society Meeting
Clifton Bingham, MD, Associate Director
Johns Hopkins Arthritis Center
"Immunizations in Autoimmune Diseases"
- Mar 18 Radiology Conference
Kathleen Brindle, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology
Chief Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Mar 18 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Mar 25 Intra-City Rheumatology Grand Rounds
NOTE LOCATION: WRAMC
NOTE TIME: 7:30 AM
- Mar 25 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106

Kudos & Congratulations

Congratulations ... to Chief Resident **Dr. Mary Reyes** and her husband, Juan, on the birth of their son, Tristan, born February 13th. Both Mary and baby are doing well.

Kudos ... to **Dr. Shervin Shafa**, PGY2, on the acceptance of his abstract entitled, "Inflammatory Mesenteric Disease," as a finalist at the national American College of Physicians meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Our Condolences ... to **Dr. David Parenti**, Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, on the recent loss of his mother.

From the Mailroom ... 

... a patient writes to thank **Dr. Jordan Gross**, PGY1, **Dr. Kathryn Rackson**, PGY1, **Dr. Nils Schnor**, PGY1, and **Dr. Michael Thomas**, PGY3, for their composure and professionalism in caring for a family member at the VA.

See you next month! The Editor



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