

September 27, 2006

Dear Dr.:

Welcome to your month of inpatient attending at the Regional Medical Center. It is suggested that you:

Keep your length of stay short by scheduling any nonessential, non-urgent test for outpatient follow-up.

Encourage frequent hand washing or hand wiping.

Encourage early removal of all catheters and tubes.

You may refer to housestaff notes, and housestaff can refer to student notes; but be certain that housestaff and students complete a ten-system review of systems, past history, and socio-family history on each admission H&P. Interns should perform a six-system exam with two distinct observations per system each day on every patient.

There should be at least **six** attending notes written each week which document personal examination of the patient and review of the housestaffs' **notes and orders**. The admission attending note must be on the chart by the next calendar day after the admission. It is our responsibility to document in the chart our supervision of procedures, i.e., arthrocentesis, paracentesis, thoracentesis, etc.

The Regional Medical Center has requested that **all** diagnoses be included at the end of the discharge summary. Proper diagnoses are necessary to help increase our average Medicine acuity score. Be sure to send a discharge summary to the patient's primary physician.

If you or your housestaff require a subspecialty consult, the consult service attending should be contacted directly by phone to discuss any urgent or emergent consults. This discussion should be documented in the medical record.

Attached is information that will be helpful during your attending month. You can also go to www.utm.edu/internalmedicine/ward-info.php for information on patient transfers, JCAHO core measures, etc. That site will be updated periodically.

Our "academy" is the patient's bedside. Good bedside teaching is fundamental to inpatient academic medicine. Let's learn to do it well.

Again, welcome to the inpatient ward service.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Morrison, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Medicine Service
Regional Medical Center

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Enclosures