



Presbyterian Medical Center Update

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The Department of Orthopedic Surgery continues to be a premiere service at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (PPMC). With a commitment to excellence, our group of physicians provides state of the art treatment of musculoskeletal disorders for patients in the region. Twelve physicians attend to over 22,000 office visits per year which accounts for close to half of the total office visits by the Department

of Orthopedic Surgery over all campuses. With the addition of a fifth laminar flow room this year and increased OR time, our surgeons perform approximately half of the surgical cases that take place at PPMC.

We welcome back Dr. Joseph Bernstein as a non-operative physician to the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at PPMC. Dr. Bernstein completed his Orthopedic Surgical residency at the University of Pennsylvania and led the Sports Medicine Service at Penn for several years prior to pursuing private practice. Dr. Bernstein has continued his academic pursuits, and his return to Penn strengthens our medical student and resident training with his keen interest in education. In addition to his academic interests, Dr. Bernstein has expanded our support for non-operative musculoskeletal patient care at PPMC. He is joined by Dr. David Pashman who treats general orthopedic disorders and Dr. Francis Lopez who focuses on disorders of the upper extremity and electrodiagnostic evaluation.

Lori Hulse was named Director of Operations for the Department of Orthopedic Surgery in October 2009. Ms. Hulse was previously the Director of Operations for the Department of Surgery at PPMC. She holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from Marywood University and is a candidate for her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management at Widener University. With her expertise and leadership our clinical and administrative operations at PPMC is undergoing reorganization.

After several years of planning, the musculoskeletal radiology reading area within our office opened its doors. This state of the art facility provides a tremendous benefit in coordinating services between the two departments. Dr. Nancy Major, recruited from Duke University, has been appointed chief of Musculoskeletal Radiology. Dr. Major has been instrumental in leading the collaboration. MRI conferences for each of the subspecialty services have been developed in addition to the facilitation of research opportunities.

The total joint service at PPMC, under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Garino MD, has been named by Blue Cross as a Blue Distinction Center for Hip and Knee Surgery. This designation is awarded to medical facilities demonstrating expertise in delivering quality healthcare. Rigorous evidence based objective criteria are used in making the designation which has been developed to improve quality of care nationwide.

The Orthopedic Infection Reduction Work Group includes representatives from the Department of Infectious Disease, nursing, operating room, and Central Processing. The group meets regularly to address the challenges of increasing orthopedic surgical volume, and large percentage of high risk and complicated cases. The multi-disciplinary group led by the hospital epidemiologist and director of infection control, Judith O'Donnell MD, have implemented initiatives for antibiotic regimen, OR and CPD audits, and preoperative bathing protocols. With the implementation of these initiatives the PPMC orthopedic infections have been reduced to a negligible rate.

The unit based clinical leadership program at PPMC is composed of a physician leader, nurse leader and quality/safety project manager. The group meets formally on a weekly basis to improve quality of care and patient safety while sharing best practices across teams. The orthopedic group on Cupp 5 is led by Craig Israelite MD and Staci Pietrafesa RN nurse manager. Their initiatives have led to significant improvements for in-patient orthopedic care including decreasing urinary tract and central line infections.



The success of the department would not have been possible without the support of Michelle Volpe, executive director of PPMC and the administrative service. The PPMC Orthopaedic Steering Committee has been meeting since 2007 and recently reorganized. It continues to meet regularly with a charge to improve the orthopedic experience at PPMC by identifying hospital based opportunities. The group organized by Lori Gustave, assistant executive director at PPMC, includes representatives from administration, OR / SPU, the Department of Anesthesia, and the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. The committee has been instrumental in the development of the Medical Co-management service and the Orthopedic Patient Satisfaction Committee. The group has also been involved in making changes within materials management, central processing, OR staffing and the reorganization of the Short Procedure Unit. The Skilled Nursing Facility at PPMC is currently being renovated for a dedicated orthopedic floor to provide excellence in care following the acute hospitalization.

The orthopedic group at PPMC is an integral part of the orthopedic program of the University of Pennsylvania Health System and continues to expand its role as national leaders in orthopedic surgery.