

Obligations and Responsibilities

A message from Stanley Dorfman, M.D., Chief of Staff

I think society has changed tremendously in the last 25 years. Today, everybody talks about their rights and privileges. Twenty-five years ago, everybody talked about their obligations and responsibilities.

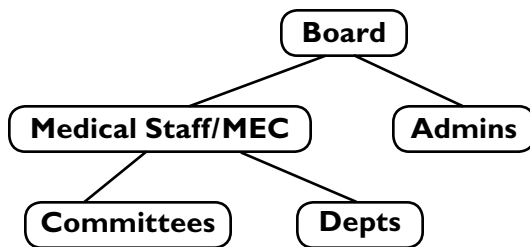
– Lou Holtz

Dear Mr. Holtz,

At our recent quarterly meeting on January 17, we had an open debate which focused on our staff privileges and the right to vote. However, we still have obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities as physicians begin with the taking of the Hippocratic oath. However, our personal obligations and responsibilities start much earlier and continue throughout our entire lives. We had the obligation to attend school and the responsibility to take out the garbage, clean our rooms and be the best student possible. As we got older, these just seemed to multiply and often created conflicts in our lives. The responsibility of working in our office and attending meetings often conflict with obligations such as family functions. The responsibility we take on as physicians attending to sick patients often conflict with our obligations as a parent.

Our divisional board has the responsibility of running the hospital. This is not just a Trinity policy. It is case law. Since they really don't understand medical quality, the board delegates the responsibility to the medical staff through the medical executive committee. The board also assigns the responsibility for systems, safety and the personnel needed to run the hospital to the administration.



The Medical Executive Committee (MEC) is not a working committee. It is an information-gathering and decision-making body made up of the elected officers and depart-

ment chairs. Our 15 committees and our various departments do the work of the medical staff. It is the obligation of the MEC to review all of the decisions taken by our departments and committees and to report these to the board. It is also the responsibility of the MEC to educate the divisional board on quality medical care and give them the proper tools to make intelligent decisions.



Dr. Dorfman

As I recently pointed out at meeting of the Quality Care committee of the board, simply reviewing a physician's malpractice history in no way gives them the tools to evaluate a physician's capabilities. In the future, the reports from our specialty quality improvement committees and the actions of our other committees and departments will be regularly presented to the MEC and to the divisional board. They will also be summarized and distributed to the medical staff.

We have a great medical staff, which provides excellent care. The quality of practice in this institution is second to none. We need to get that message out to the board and to the community we service. That is our responsibility.

So, Mr. Holtz, we still do have obligations and responsibilities after all; at least in medicine.

If anyone is interested in serving on one of our committees, please contact Pat Graves at (248) 858-6107 and we will get you involved.

Medical Staff Committees

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Constitution & Bylaws | Quality Improvement |
| Clinical Practice | Pharmacy & Therapeutics |
| Medical Record | Infection Control |
| Radiation Safety | Rehabilitation |
| Cancer | |

Other committees exist but membership is by appointment only.

Next Quarterly Meeting

Last meeting, well over 100 people attended. People sat down and listened to Jack's presentation. Our next meeting will be held on March 21 at 6 p.m. Dr. Tom Simmer from Blue Cross will be discussing the new Blue Cross physician incentive payment plans.

Use 222 to Report Emergencies

Please dial "222" to report emergencies. This includes Code Blue, Code Pink, Trauma Team, Stroke Team, and Rapid Response Team

Dialing zero places your call in queue and causes delays. Please note that all other emergency numbers are listed on the Hospital Kardex.

Cranbrook Hospice Care Now Accepts Health Alliance Plan

Cranbrook Hospice Care announced that Health Alliance Plan has joined its growing list of insurance partners. Cranbrook also accepts Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross, Blue Care Network, ASR, Care Choices, Preferred Choices, Molina, PPOM, Great Lakes Health Plan and Tricare.