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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

February 28, 1986

TO: Sol Bernstein, M.D.
Medical Director

FROM: Kathy Lohr, R.N. *kl*
Coordinator, Q.A. Committee

SUBJECT: HOSPICE CARE/PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Q.A. ad hoc committee on Hospice/Pain Management has continued to meet on a monthly basis since our last report to you on May 24, 1985. As you recall, a study was done initially to review the care of dying patients at the Medical Center including our approaches to pain control. The findings confirmed previous assessment that pain control in cancer patients appears to be more appropriately managed on oncology wards where the staff is more attuned to the problems that pain presents in the chronic and dying patient. Also, a major deficiency is the lack of chart documentation in physician and nursing notes as to the effectiveness of pain medication.

Further questionnaires/audits have revealed the following:

1. A questionnaire was sent to senior residents in Women's Hospital regarding their ability to manage hospitalized patients and outpatients. All felt fairly competent to manage hospitalized patients. Sixty percent (60%) felt fairly competent and forty percent (40%) felt they needed help. All had DEA numbers. Eighty percent (80%) had triplicate forms. Eighty percent (80%) felt the need for more resident training in chronic pain management during oncology rotation, during regular Women's Hospital conferences, and as a part of a Medical Center-wide program. ~~A pain "hotline" for residents to call was suggested.~~
2. The Department of Nursing conducted a survey of RN's. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the staff felt that ordering practices of the Medical Staff provided adequate pain management for patients.

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Forty-nine percent (49%) felt pain management/administration practices of RN's differed or were influenced by individual concerns regarding patient addiction. Sixty percent (60%) felt they needed additional information/education regarding pain management.

Consequently, since May, the following has been accomplished in the Medical Center relative to Hospice/Pain Control:

1. The November Medical Center Drug Bulletin was dedicated to the treatment of cancer pain, written by David Cundiff, M.D., Staff Physician, Internal Medicine.
2. On September 20, the Department of Nursing presented a conference entitled "Pain: Assessment and Intervention in Nursing Practice." The lecturer was Margo McCaffery, R.N., MS, FAAN, a consultant in the nursing care of patients with pain. Approximately 400 nurses attended.
3. A letter has been sent to the Departmental Chiefs requesting they dedicate one conference to pain control, i.e., grand rounds.
4. Resources relative to pain control within our hospital have been reviewed, i.e., Nursing, Anesthesia, Neurosurgery, Discharge Coordinators, as well as outside resources.

Further plans include the following:

1. A half-day postgraduate program for physicians is being planned by a subcommittee of the Hospice/Pain Control Committee. Funding for honorariums is being pursued with the Purdue-Frederick drug company which manufactures M.S. Contin (a long-acting oral MS preparation). Attempts are being made to schedule well-known experts in the field in order to attract house staff, and supervisory staff attendance.
2. The development of a reading list is being considered relative to pain management. This would be a series of articles consolidated in a reading book to be shelved in the library.

*Finally, our recommendations to you from the QA Committee are for a multidisciplinary "Pain Management Team" and for all licensed physicians to carry DEA issued triplicates.

We do plan to re-audit our original study but only after additional educational conferences have been conducted for the professional staff. We will inform you of the results in our next progress report.

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We hope that our actions are satisfactory to you and make an impact on improving the care of the terminally ill patient.

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