

Appendix #8

**Department of Health Services
Los Angeles County - University of Southern California
Medical Center**

Pain Committee

L. BUCKINGHAM
Executive Director

SOL BERNSTEIN, M.D.
Medical Director

FOTINE D. O'CONNOR, R.N.
Director, Nursing Services
and Education



Affiliated with
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

November 5, 1986

Sol Bernstein, M.D.
Medical Director

Dear Dr. Bernstein,

Attached are the most recent audits on Cancer Patients hospitalized between July 21, 1986 and October 20, 1986. The sample includes 7 patients from General Wards and 9 patients from 4700 and 14-600.

The audit of patients on the General Wards as well as those on the Hematology wards reveal inappropriate ordering practices in the hospital and upon discharge for pain control. There is also lack of documentation in the chart regarding the effectiveness of pain medication. Only one patient (from a General Ward) had a VNA Hospice Referral.

I am also including the minutes of our last meeting which identifies corrective actions which the Pain/Hospice Committee is considering. If you have any other suggestions, please contact me.

Sincerely

Kathy Lohr R.N.
Kathy Lohr, R.N.

KL:vr

Attachment

cc: Thomas Boylen, M.D.
Fotine O'Connor, R.N.
Sherri Smith, R.N.

*CC
Dr. Candell
Sol
11-6-86*

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He stated that Purdue-Frederick will provide \$1000 per patient for 60 patients on M.S. Contin. He will be hiring a nurse and is hopeful this program will be underway in December. One problem encountered is the "storing" of this narcotic, as the hospital pharmacy cannot store narcotics for research purposes. However, this will be worked out with the assistance of Sam Behmoiras, Chief of Pharmacy.

Action: Dr. Cundiff will keep the committee updated on his progress.

Recent Audit/Pain Control (General Hospital)

Discussion: Kathy Lohr presented an audit conducted from 7/27/86 to 10/20/86 on 7 patients with cancer on General Wards and 9 patients on Oncology/Hematology Wards. In general, the audit demonstrated inappropriate ordering practices for pain control as well as lack of documentation, regarding effectiveness or non-effectiveness of the pain medication. Out of the 16 patients sampled only one from a General Ward had a VNA referral. There were no VNA referrals from the Oncology/Hematology Wards.

The committee members were surprised at the poor audit results on the Oncology/Hematology Wards. It was suggested that perhaps the reason was due to the newness of the house staff July - October. It was also felt that perhaps nurses, especially on the off shifts, were not assertive enough in making the M.D.'s aware of the patients pain control needs. A suggestion was made for an educational conference on the Oncology Wards for M.D.'s and R.N.'s as well as emphasis on this issue by the attending staff. The results of the audit lent itself to the next agenda item, "Educational Program".

Action: The audit will be distributed to Sol Bernstein, M.D., Fotine O'Connor, R.N. and the Quality Assurance Committee.

Educational Program - Pain Control

Discussion: There was a great deal of discussion regarding educational programs. It was generally felt, that rather than a half or whole day workshop at USC, it might be more effective at this point, to schedule a Grand Rounds on Cancer Pain Control. Dr. Boylen indicated he would arrange the time with Dr. Bethune's office for December and one-two times a year thereafter. Dr. Cundiff indicated he would present the conference. In addition, it was felt that the topic should also be included in the medicine teaching sessions.

Other suggestions were as follows:

- Pain control should be included in the "Introduction to Clinical Medicine" in the 2nd year medical school curriculum.

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- A pain control section should be included in the Intern/Residents Handbook.
- The Drug Bulletin on pain control should be re-issued.
- During "Cancer Awareness Week", "something" should be done on each ward (ie a posting, etc.) regarding appropriate pain control.
- In the educational programs there should be inclusion of the resources available within our hospital for various modalities for pain control including "psychological".

Action: Doctors Boylen and Cundiff to arrange Grand Rounds Conference in December. Kathy Lohr will request Dr. McCarron to re-distribute the Drug Bulletin on Pain Control.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held Friday, December 12, 1986 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 11-321.

KL:vr

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