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Lexington Chapter

Practice Pros

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President's Message

Theresa Falcone, CPC, CPC-H, CPC-P

Cultural Differences

Thank you to Amanda Elias Vargas for her descriptive representation of cultural differences during our chapter meeting on August 19th. This presentation drew a depictive picture on how our American language is very hard to grasp for people from other cultures.

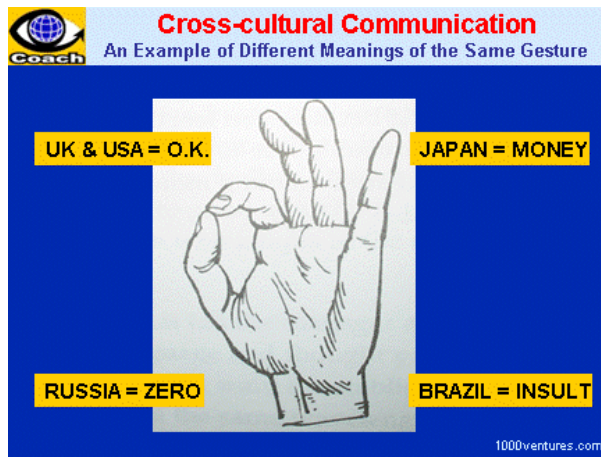
What is culture anyway? The truth is culture has many meanings. One meaning from Websters Dictionary is:

The customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group; also: the characteristic features of everyday

existence (as diversions or a way of life} shared by people in a place or time <popular *culture*> <southern *culture*>

We have a great deal of “slang” in our language which is second nature for us as Americans. I know having grown up in a Canadian border state and traveling to Europe, I have certainly felt like the “different” one being in another country.

Below is an example of a cultural difference with the “ok” sign:



Another form of culture is Deaf culture. As I type this article, my husband is speaking to his parents via video telephone by sign language. Most people do not associate Deafness with being another culture, but it certainly is.

It is very important as we come into contact with various individuals from the cultures everyday to respect the culture they present to us. Remember the importance of utilizing an interpreter when necessary, especially in a medical setting.



Preparing for the Storm

Submitted by Pam Free

September marks 22 years since a major hurricane (Hugo) hit the coast of SC causing millions of dollars in damages. We watch as storms move steadily across the vast empty stretches of the Atlantic. We have time to plan and prepare, predict potential landfall scenarios based on a series of models and emergency plans. Although Irene appears to have changed course she remains under the watchful eye of our State Emergency Management Division.

I have heard time and time again recently the state of our healthcare being compared to a hurricane. The key to preparing for the landfall of a major hurricane is largely the same as preparing for the challenges we face in healthcare. Facing the potential challenge of a natural or man-made nature is a question of preparation, diligence and planning.

As we watch and monitor her course we try to prepare to the best of our abilities. We have emergency/disaster plans in place; we make sure we have the proper tools, supplies, and basic needs on hand. We keep current with updates and news and for many of us, a daily prayer for the wisdom and guidance to deal with and understand the craziness of it all.

A hurricane is an intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. It may inflict devastating destruction caused by the high winds, heavy rain and flooding resulting in loss of life.

What is Eye of the storm? For a hurricane it is a zone of weak winds in the center of the swirling vortex. The eye can be 20 to 40 miles in width with winds speeds in the range of 11.5 miles per hour.

The Eye Wall of the storm is the most devastating region. This is the location within a hurricane where the most damaging winds and intense rainfall is found.

How about for healthcare? What is our eye of the storm? What is the eye wall for us? Is it the government, payers, physicians, EMR, ICD-10, patients perhaps? What are the devastating results that can occur?

We must prepare ourselves. Know our vulnerabilities. Have a plan and team in place. Check our supplies. Monitor. Heed advice and execute our plans.

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 – November 30. Healthcare is every day. So heads up, stay alert, stay calm and one step ahead!





Cancer Program Achieves Reaccreditation

Submitted by Cristy Marshall

Lexington Medical Center's Cancer Program has been reaccredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. This accreditation signifies that our hospital provides the highest level of care to our patients.

Established by the American College of Surgeons in 1922, CoC establishes standards to ensure quality, multidisciplinary and comprehensive care in health care settings. Dr. Myron Barwick currently serves as the chair of the hospital's Cancer Committee and Dr. Ron Myatich is the cancer liaison physician to the College of Surgeons.

This survey gave LMC an opportunity to showcase our many programs and services as well as learn about possible areas of improvement. Dr. Thomas L. Eisenhower from CoC encouraged physician attendance and participation at monthly Cancer Committee meetings. He also encouraged use of the Cancer Program Practice Profile Reports by the National Cancer Data Base to benchmark our clinical performance against other accredited cancer programs. The Cancer Committee has already started to improve in those areas and prepare for the next survey in 2014.



Upcoming Meeting

***September 21 Darra Coleman-
Rogers, Townsend, and Thomas
Protecting Patient's Privacy in the Era of
E-Discovery***

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month
at the Lexington Medical Center Auditorium.
To RSVP or any questions please contact Jessica Seel at
jessicaturner@sc.rr.com or 803-622-6370

**Meeting sponsorships for 2011 are still available.
If you are interested in sponsoring a meeting
please contact Trey Hoey at thoey@bellsouth.net**

Mark Your Calendar



**“ICD-10 –Where to Begin?” December 2, 2011
Lexington Medical Center Auditorium
Registration beginning in September**

****More details to come**

Food for Thought

Ham Delights

- 1 lb. cooked ham, shredded
- 3 tbs. mustard
- 1/3 lb. swiss cheese, shredded
- 3 tbs. poppy seed
- 1 stick margarine
- 2 tbs. minced onion
- 3 pkgs. Pepperidge Farm Party Rolls
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

Melt margarine, remove from heat. Combine all ingredients in large bowl and mix well. Split rolls in half, spread mixture on the bottom half of rolls. After filling, replace top of roll, place back on pan and wrap in aluminum foil. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes or until warm.

Great snack for tailgating!!



“Accept Challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.”

- George S. Patton

Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day!