original research & contributions

19 Building Teams in Primary Care: What Do Nonlicensed Allied Health Workers Want? George W. Jaba, PhD, Stephanie Tachl, MD, Lisa Ward, MD, MCSPH, Ellen H. Chen, MD, Hal H. Hammert, MD

During semistructured interviews, 11 health coaches reflected on their yearlong experience in the transit model at an underserved urban primary care clinic. Emerging themes included: 1) responsibilities and roles varied from theoretical expectations of model, 2) communication and relationships were key to health-coach experience, 3) prior education and health care roles influenced the experience, and 4) there were systems and personnel obstacles to model effective implementation.

20 Optimizing Treatment of Intra-amniotic Infection and Early-Onset Postpartum Endometritis: Advantages of Single-Agent Therapy, Norma Biglich, MD, Werdith Alston, MD, Simona vanSwaan, MD

Intra-amniotic infection and early-onset postpartum endometritis occur in 5% of delivering patients at Denver Health Medical Center, the safety-net hospital for the city and county. In this retrospective study of 357 patients, 195 received the standard multi-agent antibiotic regimen and 152 received a single-agent (ampicillin sulbactam). The results support the use of a single-agent. These patients collectively received 156 fewer medication doses.

32 Virtual Visitations in the Neonatal Intensive Care: Experience with the Use of Internet and Telemedicine in a Tertiary Neonatal Unit, CL Niu, MD, Selina Y. H. Hu, MD, KC Kong, RN, BSN, YY Lau, RN, BSN

Families of newborns requiring prolonged neonatal intensive care faced emotional and financial difficulties. To evaluate Internet-based telemedicine, eligible newborns were identified and written consent was obtained before a Web camera was installed by the baby’s cot. Using the child-specific, confidential password, families viewed real-time video images of their newborns through a secure portal via an Internet browser or a third-generation (3G) phone. Virtual visitation was well accepted by families.

37 Building a System of Care: Integration across the Heart Failure Care Continuum, Jackie Cawley, DO, Cassandra Cote Grantham, MA, Rebecca J. Brouwer, MD, MScPH, Lisa W. Harrison, MD, Cassandra Grathorne, MA

Disparate heart failure (HF) services existed across Methodist until an interdisciplinary joint HF workgroup was convened and created a comprehensive set of strategies that better linked HF activities and care settings across the health system, which resulted in better communication, coordination, reliability, and standardization of HF care; improved readmission rates for Medicare/Medicare (18% to 12.7%); increased prescribed ACE inhibitors (77% to 96%); smoking cessation counseling (77% to 96%); and completed discharge instructions (68% to 87%).

Books published by Permanente authors:

Gray Matter: A Neurosurgeon Discovers the Power of Prayer ... One Patient at a Time

By David Levy, MD, with Joel Kilpatrick
ISBN-10: 1414439755
Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2011
Paperback: 320 pages
$14.99

Going Prepared: A Unique Church-Based Approach to Crisis Prevention for Short-Term Mission Teams

By Lee Jacobs and Steve Vereb
Longwood, FL: Xulon Press, 2010
Paperback: 140 pages
$14.99

Gynecologic Oncology: Evidence-Based Perioperative and Supportive Care, 2nd Edition

By Steven A. Vasta, Scott E. Lentz, Allan E. Azad
Hardcover: 572 pages
$149.95
Narrative Medicine

43 Qualitative Assessment of the Impact of Implementing Reiki Training in a Supported Residence for People Older Than 50 Years with HIV/AIDS. Lewis Mehl-Madrona, MD, PhD, MPHil; Nita M Renfrew; Barbara Mainguy, MA

Reiki is a Japanese form of energy healing popular in the US. The authors set out to implement a program to train clients of a supported residence in Brooklyn, NY, who were all older than age 50 years and had HIV/AIDS and substance-abuse and/or mental-health disorders. A qualitative, narrative-inquiry study was conducted. Stories were collected from 35 participants who all reported benefit, many with life-changing experiences, from participation in Reiki and training that can be successfully implemented in this population.

SPECIAL REPORT

51 Hospital Medicine's Evolution: Literature Search and Interview Study with Practices. Ruth Greenwald, MA, MS; Marianne Novelli, MD; Tom Lorenze, MD

In the early years of hospital medicine, research focused on clinical outcomes, efficiency, and cost effectiveness. Increasing attention now is on the patient and hospitalist experience. A literature search was used to develop a semi-structured interview guide with Kaiser Permanente (KP) hospitalists and physician leaders and KP experts. Factors influencing sustainability include scheduling, workload, comanagement responsibilities, and recruitment and retention. Respondents viewed themselves as the center of a web involving communication with patients, other physicians, nurses, and other hospitalists.

REVIEW ARTICLES

61 The Role of Minimally Invasive Surgery and Outcomes in Colorectal Cancer. David S Kwon, MD; George J Chang, MD, MS, FACS, FASCRS

Robotic rectal surgery has recently emerged as an attractive alternative to laparoscopic surgery because it allows for superior visualization within a narrow pelvic field and more precise dissection. Studies of robotic rectal resection have suggested similar or potentially improved short-term oncologic outcomes when compared with laparoscopic rectal resection.

68 Improving Diagnostic Reasoning to Improve Patient Safety. Alvin Rajkumar, MD; Gurpreet Dhalival, MD

Both clinicians and patients rely on an accurate diagnostic process to identify the correct illness and to craft a treatment plan. It is frequently assumed that clinical experience and knowledge are sufficient to improve diagnostic ability, but studies from fields where decision making and judgment are optimized suggest that additional effort beyond daily work is required for excellence. This article reviews the cognitive psychology of diagnostic reasoning and proposes steps to improve diagnostic accuracy.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE

74 Retinal Drawing: A Lost Art of Medicine. LuAnn Dvorak, PhD, LPN; Stephen R Russell, MD

From 1958 to 1988, ophthalmologists created formal retinal (ocular fundus) drawings, a form of preoperative documentation. Drawings took from 30 minutes to 3 hours each to map retinal tears, detachments, and landmarks before surgical retinal detachment repair. To rigorously educate the examiners in ocular anatomy and the use of the binocular indirect ophthalmoscope. Four of these recently found color drawings are presented.

CASE STUDIES

76 The Treatment of Black Widow Spider Envenomation with Antivenin Latrodectus Mactans: A Case Series. Steven R Offerman, MD, FACEP, FACMT; G Patrick Daubert, MD, FACEP; Richard F Clark, MD, FACEP, FACMT

American poison control centers annually report over 2500 black widow spider bites, which cause severe pain, muscle cramping, abdominal pain, and back pain, often refractory to traditional analgesics. One of the four cases reported here was managed without antivenin, and three were treated successfully with antivenin, demonstrating safe and effective use.

82 Acute Myocardial Infarction due to Coronary Artery Embolism in a Patient with a Tissue Aortic Valve Replacement. Joel T Levin, MD, PhD, FACEP, FFAEM; Geoffrey Schultz, MD; Philip C Lee, MD, FACC

This case presents a 50-year-old man who underwent a tissue aortic valve repair 4 years before presenting to the Emergency Department with an ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. The patient was successfully treated with percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty and aspiration thrombectomy.

CLINICAL MEDICINE

87 Image Diagnosis: Pneumomediastinum. Charlene Kiang, MD; Gus Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

An adolescent girl, age 14 years, presents to the Emergency Department after one week of cough with chest pain, neck pain, and shortness of breath. Pneumomediastinum can occur because of the increased pressures seen with sneezing, coughing, vomiting, and the valsalva maneuver.

EDITORIAL

88 Climate Change: It's Not About the Weather—Continuing Medical Education and Maintenance of Certification and Licensure. Carol Havens, MD; Jeffrey Mallin, MD

A drastic climate change has occurred in health care with effects visible on the education, training, certification, and accreditation systems of physicians throughout the US. Continuous professional development and assessment are the basis of new faces in these areas. New forms of CME include: “just-in-time learning” in the work setting or online; problem-based, team and systems learning, and change; and multi-interventional, experiential, and/or self-assessed curricula for complex areas of practice.

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