The Joint Commission Certifies MMC as Primary Stroke Center

Medical Department Chair Donald Caraccio, MD, credits effort by interdisciplinary team to achieve designation

The Joint Commission, in conjunction with the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, recently certified Munson Medical Center as a Primary Stroke Center.

The certification follows an on-site visit in July by a reviewer from The Joint Commission with expertise in stroke care. The designation demonstrates the hospital’s program meets critical elements of performance to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes for stroke patients.

“In achieving Joint Commission advanced certification, Munson Medical Center has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for stroke patients,” said Jean Range, MS, RN, CPHQ, executive director of Disease-Specific Care Certification for The Joint Commission. “Certification is a voluntary process and The Joint Commission commends Munson Medical Center for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves.”

Developed in collaboration with the American Stroke Association, the Joint Commission’s program is based on the Brain Attack Coalition’s “Recommendations for the Establishment of Primary Stroke Centers.” Certification is available only to stroke programs in Joint Commission-accredited acute care hospitals.

“We’re very pleased that The Joint Commission recognizes the standard of stroke care we have at Munson Medical Center,” said Donald Caraccio, MD, chairman of the hospital’s Medical Department. “This certification is the result of a concerted effort by an interdisciplinary group at the hospital that has focused on ensuring our care for stroke patients meets the highest standards.”

Clinical Nurse Specialist for A7 and B4 Kathleen Glaza, MSN, RN, ACNS, BC, said she also appreciates all the

Meaningful Use Seminar Clarifies Stage 2 Requirements

In October, more than 40 physicians and office managers attended a seminar on Meaningful Use that helped clarify the Stage 2 requirements.

The forum, which featured Joe Cook, DO, Munson Family Practice Center and Ambulatory Applications, and Randi Terry, director of Munson Information Systems, was the latest in a series of seminars to help practices be compliant with Meaningful Use mandates.

Eligible health care professionals who meet the Meaningful Use requirements can qualify for Medicare or Medicaid incentive payments when they adopt certified electronic medical

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Kid's Creek Restoration Project
The Kid’s Creek Restoration Project continues on schedule north of Sixth Street on the hospital’s campus. Workers are rerouting utilities and plotting out a new channel for the creek. The project will be completed next fall.
Radiology Results Sent Instantly to Pager, Phone, Fax, or Email

PowerScribe 360/Critical Results (formerly known as Veriphy”) is an automated critical test result management system designed to get Radiology test results to providers quickly and efficiently.

“This system enables the department to improve patient safety and meets Joint Commission requirements for critical test reporting,” said Steven Hodges, MD, Radiology Department Chairman.

Critical test results are classified by color to indicate the degree of urgency:
- Red Results (emergent or critical results requiring a response within minutes)
- Orange Results (significant or unexpected results that require a decision within hours)
- Yellow Results (non-emergent results that require a decision within days)

Users can be notified differently for different levels of urgency or can have the same devices for all colors and urgency levels. Notification options include the main office number, pager, cell phone, text message, email, or fax for less urgent results.

For red results, a Radiologist will contact the ordering provider directly. Once the provider receives notification of an orange or yellow critical Radiology test result, it is important that the provider close the notification by calling the PowerScribe 360/Critical Results phone number provided.

Dr. Hodges said even if the provider has access to test results in PowerChart, it remains important to close the notification by calling PowerScribe 360/Critical Results. This will document that the information was received, which is important for patient care.

In response to physician feedback that it was unclear how to close a call, PowerScribe 360/Critical Results now has the physician press “1” to close a call.

For questions or additional information on PowerScribe 360/Critical Results, contact Dan Fly, director of Radiology Systems at (231) 935-7941.

To change one's PowerScribe 360/Critical Results contact options, please contact Physician Liaison Deb Kimball at (231) 935-3388 or dkimball@mhc.net.

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Meaningful Use Seminar for Physicians

When:  
Tuesday, December 11  
6 - 7:30 pm

Where:  
Munson Family Practice  
– Conference Room

Physicians receive 1.5 hours of CME for attending.

To RSVP, please contact the Physician Liaison Program at (231) 935-5873 or physicianliaison@mhc.net.

“The seminar will be a great way for physicians to learn how Meaningful Use is affecting their practice,” said Dr. Cook.

For more information on Meaningful Use, contact Dr. Cook at (231) 935-8013 or jcook2@mhc.net, or Randi Terry at (231) 935-5199.

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efforts of every department involved that have made the recognition possible.

“We’ve achieved a very high level of standard of care and it is reflective of the efforts of our interdisciplinary team. We’ve received a lot of assistance from many people and hospital departments including A7, Administration, Emergency Department, Food and Nutrition Services, Hospitalists, ICU, Inpatient Therapy, Lab, Pharmacy, Physician Assistants, Pulmonologists, Radiology, and several other areas,” she said. “We are very grateful for everyone’s assistance on this.”

The two-year certification requires the hospital to report to The Joint Commission quarterly on eight core stroke measures of care. At the end of the first year, the hospital is required to participate in a conference call to attest to its continued compliance with the standards and to review performance activities.

Munson Medical Center is one of 35 hospitals involved with the Michigan Ongoing Stroke Registry to Accelerate the Improvement in Care (MOSAIC).

More information on The Joint Commission and AHA certification for a Primary Stroke Center can be found at jointcommission.org and heart.org/myhospital.
Munson’s Observation Unit Meeting Expectations

Exactly one year after opening the Clinical Observation Unit, the numbers prove its worth and the patient thank-you notes that name their nurses reflect its success.

A recent research study published in the journal “Health Affairs” revealed that hospitals with observation units improve resource use, patient flow, and reduce costs.

“This is the direction of health care, shorter lengths of stay for patients,” said Jim Fischer, RN, Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer as he helped the unit celebrate its first anniversary. “What used to be treated and cared for in an inpatient setting is now treated on a unit similar to this.”

C2 Medical Director Kevin Omilusik, MD, said the past 12 months of experience reinforces the wisdom of establishing the unit at Munson.

“We estimated prior to opening the unit, according to national studies and visiting other observation units, that 5 – 10 percent of the annual ED volume would be appropriate for observation care and we should expect 15 percent of these patients to be admitted inpatient,” he said. “We currently take 7.9 percent of ED volume and have been steady at 13 – 15 percent of observation patients being admitted to inpatient status. Overall close to 40 percent of the patient population is in for cardiac evaluation. Again, this fits right with our expectations prior to opening the unit so we are quite happy with the numbers at this time.”

C2 Manager Phyllis Bertram said the unit assists the hospital by moving patients out of the Emergency Department and improving patient flow.

A summary of patient satisfaction surveys through July 2012 show the unit received 100 percent scores from patients under the categories “recommending the hospital,” “nurses treat with courtesy and respect,” and “doctors treat with courtesy and respect.”

James Whelan, MD, has accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer at Mercy Hospital Cadillac.

James Whelan, MD, Appointed Chief Medical Officer at Mercy Hospital Cadillac

James Whelan, MD, has accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer at Mercy Hospital Cadillac.

Mercy Cadillac President and CEO John MacLeod said Dr. Whelan will continue his role as Wexford Mercy PHO Medical Director and will continue to provide care for his family practice patients.

“Jim brings his PHO Medical Director experience, continuing course work as a physician administrator, and strong work ethic to his new role,” MacLeod said. “Jim is working on a succession plan with Jerry Dudek and will start his new role in January 2013.”
Psychiatrist Joins Munson Medical Center
Zachary P. Goral, DO, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in psychiatry. Dr. Goral practices at the Munson Behavioral Health Services, 420 Brook Street in Traverse City. His office can be reached at (231) 935-6382.

Dr. Goral graduated from Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Vallejo, Ca. and completed his residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich. He has recently returned to the area after serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Nephrologist Joins Munson Medical Center Staff
Jessica L. Slocum, MD, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in nephrology. Dr. Slocum practices at Nephrology Consultants, 4062 W. Royal Dr., Traverse City. Her office can be reached at (231) 935-0338, and she is currently accepting new patients.

Dr. Slocum graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Mich. She completed her residency and fellowship at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Hospitalist Joins Munson Medical Center
Kelly A. Covell, DO, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in hospital medicine. Dr. Covell practices at Hospitalists of Northern Michigan, 1105 Sixth St., Traverse City.

Dr. Covell graduated from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, East Lansing, Mich. and completed her residency at Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center, Mount Clemens, Mich.

Anesthesiologist Joins Munson Medical Center
Matthew W. Martin, MD, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in anesthesiology. Dr. Martin practices at Traverse Anesthesia Associates, PC, 4100 Park Forest Drive, Traverse City.

Dr. Martin graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C. and completed his residency and fellowship at the University of Michigan Health Systems, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Jeffrey Kyff, DO, Elected to AOCA Board of Governors
The American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists has elected Jeffrey Kyff, DO, FAOCA, to the AOCA Board of Governors. Dr. Kyff practices at Munson Medical Center and the Northwest Michigan Surgery Center.

Correction
The October MedNews misidentified Hospitalist Amy Robertson, MD, on page 4. We regret the error.

Hospital to Implement Procalcitonin Screening for Suspect Pneumonia
Munson Medical Center will begin a process of using procalcitonin laboratory screening to facilitate appropriate antibiotic use in conjunction with the clinical findings, patient history and other pertinent lab tests.

Primary Care Committee Chair Donald Caraccio, MD, said the procalcitonin screening will be used in patients presenting with suspected community-acquired pneumonia.

Studies have suggested the usefulness of this as an adjunct in the decision making process as physicians care for patients with possible bacterial infections. This keeps patients from inappropriate antibiotic use and subsequent promotion of drug resistance.

The Community Acquired Pneumonia pathway order set protocol will incorporate these new tests, Dr. Caraccio said.

The Infectious Disease section has fully supported the utility of these tests. Education is planned at multiple levels throughout the hospital.

Message to Physicians from VPMA

New Weekly E-Newsletter Launches
We have heard from physicians regarding the amount of communication received and also realize the importance of delivering timely, succinct messages. During the past few weeks providers have been receiving a bulleted email. We recently sent out our first weekly e-newsletter, MedNewsFLASH. The subject line will highlight key topics enclosed. Please take the time to check the news and updates within.

Your feedback is valuable so please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Thank you.

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