



Physician News Brief

NEWS ABOUT COVENANT HEALTHCARE FROM
The Office of Physician Relations & Regional Outreach

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Mark Your Calendars- Holiday Gatherings

Physician and Office Staff Holiday Reception November 30, 5:00-8:00p at Horizon's Conference Center

Active Medical Staff Dinner Meeting December 5, 6:00-8:00p at Apple Mountain

Hand Hygiene Rates

Covenant HealthCare has seen a recent decline in hand hygiene rates across the organization. As you are aware, performing hand hygiene is the most important action we can take to reduce the spread of healthcare-associated infections. As antimicrobial resistance continues to increase it is imperative now more than ever to wash in and wash out, every time, for every patient. We are committed to providing the highest level of care and have set a hand hygiene target of 97%. Covenant HealthCare is a High Reliability Organization and we expect all staff to hold each other accountable. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Michael Sullivan, Chief Transformation Officer at 583.7351.

National Shortage of Morphine- Covenant Response

The American Society of Health System Pharmacists has officially placed all injectable morphine products on the National Drug Shortage List. The Covenant HealthCare Pharmacy Department has been managing this shortage since July, but it does not appear the shortage will fully resolve until June of 2018. The Pharmacy Department has been receiving limited shipments of injectable morphine, but this is not enough to sustain our current utilization.

To conserve what injectable morphine the pharmacy does have, an overridable alert has been placed in EPIC encouraging providers to consider using fentanyl instead of morphine when clinically appropriate. Please consider this alert when providing care for your patients. Fentanyl is suggested instead of hydromorphone because the supply of hydromorphone is also limited at this time. The pharmacy will continue to work hard and explore all options to secure a steady supply of injectable morphine and hydromorphone for your patients. We appreciate your help during this shortage. For any further questions please contact Blake Bonkowski, Pharmacy Manager at 583.4061.



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