



# Physician News Brief

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

MAY 23, 2018

## Changes to Stroke Policy

On June 4, the following changes to the Covenant HealthCare Stroke Policy will take effect:

1. "Code 180" will change its name to "CODE STROKE"
2. Activation time will change from 6 hours (of symptom onset) to 24 hours. This is because American Heart/Stroke Association guidelines suggest stroke mechanical intervention for thrombus on patients that qualify up to 24 hours of stroke symptom onset.
3. Door to CT read time will change from 45 minutes to 35 minutes. This change occurred because we changed our Door to Needle to IV t-PA to 45 minutes in July of 2017.

For further information or any questions, please contact Melissa Duchene, Stroke Program Administrator, at 583.6685.

## Active Medical Staff Meeting- Tuesday, June 19

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 19 for the next Active Staff Meeting. It will begin as usual with lunch provided at 11:30am followed by the meeting being called to order at noon. It will take place in the Cooper Lecture Theatre. If you have any questions about the meetings, please contact the Medical Staff Office at 583.4133

## Determination of capacity to make medical decisions

According to Michigan law, someone other than the patient cannot make medical decisions unless two physicians or one physician and a licensed psychologist have documented the patient lacks decision making capacity. It is not always necessary to consult a psychiatrist for capacity evaluation. A psychiatry consult should be reserved for cases where patients may have an underlying mental diagnosis.

To assist with the capacity documentation and assessment we've created a smart phrase which contains the four basic components of a capacity assessment. A 10-minute video providing an overview of the components of a capacity evaluation and how to access the capacity note has been created. To access the video, go to <https://www.covenanthealthcare.com/ch/physicians> and select the Capacity Note for Code Status and Michigan Law Requirement.

Questions or concerns, contact Melodie Knicely, MD at 989.280.4538 or Tracy Barger, MSN, RN at 989.583.6292.

## Palliative Care Training Pilot

Recently we purchased a membership with Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC). With this membership, Covenant provides its staff with access to tools, training and technical assistance aimed at improving palliative care clinical and operational skills. To get us started, we are looking for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to participate in a pilot initiative for Palliative Care. This group will serve as a test case for curriculum implementation across the health system.

Pilot participants will complete 18 online courses focusing on **Pain Management (including Opioid components) and Communication** as part of this pilot. Each course is between 30-45 minutes in duration and can be accessed from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Participants will have two months to complete the courses, earning 12 free CMEs. If you are interested, please contact either Melodie Knicely, MD at 280.4538 or Tracy Barger, MSN, RN at 583.6292 by June 1.



Extraordinary care for every generation.



OUR PATIENTS