Lee Silverman Voice Treatment - LSVT

Shelley Bergman and Emilee Hinkle, Speech-Language Pathologists at Hannibal Regional Hospital, received training and certification in the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT LOUD). This certification course focused on providing an intensive standardized speech treatment protocol for those patients with Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions in both adults and pediatric populations. 89% of people diagnosed with Parkinson's disease will have speech problems that start early in the disease process and will progressively diminish their quality of life. Common speech problems suffered by those with Parkinson's disease are: soft tone, mumbled speech, monotone speech, and hoarse voice. Medicine and neurosurgery typically do not help speech disorders in this population. The most effective way to improve speech is through speech therapy. More than 20 years of research funded by the National Institute of Health has documented that the LSVT LOUD protocol improved vocal loudness, improved speech intelligibility, increased facial expression, and improved confidence. LSVT LOUD helps to establish a life-long habit of improved communication. To learn more about LSVT, contact Hannibal Regional Hospital Rehabilitation at 573-406-5777.
Medication Errors

The Medication Management Team has noticed a trend in med errors that continues to occur as a result of instructions being placed in the comment field of an order rather than in the appropriate field within the order form. Some errors that have occurred where this was the case are listed.

- Cefoxitin 2gm IV Q8H was ordered and in the comment field, the physician typed “x3 doses”. The order did not stop after the desired time and the patient received 7 doses.
- Azithromycin 500mg was ordered Q24H, with a comment to change to 250mg after first dose. The patient received 3 days of the 500mg dose.
- Cefazolin was ordered with comment “x3 doses”. Order did not stop at that time and subsequent doses were administered.
- Indomethacin was ordered using the frequency of “daily” with the comment “give at bedtime”. The first dose was given at HS and then nearly given again at 9am the next day. “Daily at bedtime” was not an orderable frequency at the time of entry, but any frequency can be easily added if the physician notifies pharmacy or IT.

These errors missed several checkpoints after entry of the item, which have been discussed with the pharmacy and nursing staff, and your help with proper ordering will help prevent these in the future.

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Antimicrobial Stewardship officially began on October 1, 2014. Among the most significant changes includes automatic pharmacist dosing and management of all vancomycin and aminoglycosides (with the exception of nephrology patients and perioperative doses). Linezolid (Zyvox) joins daptomycin (Cubicin) and carbapenems (Primaxin, Invanz) as medications designated for specific patient groups or disease states and require a pharmacy consult for the order to be placed. These steps were all taken to improve patient safety and outcomes, help slow the rapid development of resistance we are seeing at HRH and globally, as well as help reduce HRH cases of *Clostridium difficile*.

**PHARMACY NOTES**

- Safety and ordering of magnesium sulfate infusions at doses >4gm - P&T has approved a new policy that will limit the maximum dose to 4gm, followed by a magnesium level. Additional doses can be given once that level is known and is appropriate for subsequent infusions. This will now be reviewed by the Medical Executive Committee.
- Therapeutic auto-substitutions will be taken to P&T for review for Symbicort (sub. to Advair), and Tudorza (sub. to Spriva) at the next meeting scheduled in January.
- Order sets for DKA and Hypothermia should be complete and ready for use in mid December

Please contact the Pharmacy at ext. 5238 or speak with a floor Pharmacist if you have any questions or concerns.
Social Thinking

Alison Crist and Patty Schenk, Speech-Language Pathologists at Hannibal Regional Hospital Pediatric Therapy Services, recently attended a Social Thinking® conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Social Thinking® is a teaching framework for individuals aged preschool through adult, created by Michelle Garcia Winner, CCC-SLP (www.socialthinking.com). Social thinking is what we do when we interact with people: we think about them. How we think about people affects how we behave, in turn affecting how the people we are speaking to respond to us, resulting in a response from our own emotions. Social Thinking helps/teaches children and adults to be better communicators in social situation (i.e. classrooms, grocery stores, church, recess, lunch rooms, etc.). Social communication challenges are commonly experienced by individuals with autism spectrum disorders, social communication disorder, Asperger’s, ADHD, nonverbal learning disability (NLD) and similar diagnoses. Social communication challenges include characteristics such as the inability to focus attention, participating as part of a group, explaining ideas to others in writing and difficulty making friends, children often prefer speaking with adults vs their peers, many times these children are labeled with a behavior problem instead of a social thinking challenge, which makes it difficult for the child to deal with all aspects of the expectations across school to home environments.

To learn more about Social Thinking® or if you have a child that experiences social communication challenges, contact Hannibal Regional Hospital Pediatric Therapy Services at 573-406-5777.

Radiology Updates

Radiology - CT Lung Cancer Screening

We have begun performing low dose CT chest for lung cancer screening at the hospital. The US Preventative Services Task Force has recently recommended this exam annually for patients meeting the following criteria:

- 55-80 years old; AND
- 30+ pack-year smoking history; AND
- current smoking or quit in past 15 years

Private insurance must reimburse this exam under the ACA. CMS’s decision to reimburse is pending.

Low dose CT chest has a radiation dose of less than 1.5 mSv, ~20% the dose of a routine chest CT, and similar to a set of T-spine x-rays.

Radiology - SPECT/CT

Our new SPECT/CT unit is operational at the hospital, which can provide 3D images of a nuclear medicine exam and fused images with CT for more accurate localization compared with routine 2D/planar images. The benefits are similar to the improvement of CT compared with X-rays.

Common uses are:

- **Cardiac stress tests** - improved accuracy as artifacts from overlying soft tissue are reduced using CT attenuation correction software.
- **WBC scan** - better localization of osteomyelitis and better differentiation from soft tissue infection.
- **Parathyroid scans** - improved localization of parathyroid adenomas.
- **Bone scans** - I-131 scans