



# Housestaff NEWSLETTER

## KEY TOPICS THIS MONTH:

- Academic Year Change
- Important Reminders from GME
- Sign Off on Verbal Orders - Message from Chief Medical Officer
- Committee Openings
- Utah Medical Association Membership
- Variable Interest Rates Decrease / First for Residents
- National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
- Education / Quality & Patient Safety Department
- Health Information Management Department

## ACADEMIC YEAR CHANGE



The 2008 / 2009 academic year is drawing to a close. The GME staff would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. We'd like to offer our congratulations to those of you completing your programs and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

We also ask each of you to join us in extending a warm welcome to those houseofficers who will be joining us for the 2009 / 2010 academic year.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM GME

### Attention PGY-1s:

Instructions to apply for your Utah license have been e-mailed to you. Please follow all instructions closely and use only the forms that were included with the e-mail.

A certified birth certificate will be required for your application. You can generally obtain this on-line from the state or county in which you were born.

If your name is different from that shown on your birth certificate, you will also need to provide verification of the change of name (e.g. a certified copy of your marriage certificate). Avoid problems in July by ensuring you have the documentation ahead of time.





**IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM GME (CONTINUED)**



Completing your Program this Year? (all PGY levels):

Check-Out Packets

Be sure to complete the check-out packet that was e-mailed to you.

The check-out packet requires approvals from:

- Health Information (Medical Records) Department of all affiliated hospitals where you have rotated. Further information can be found below in the 'Health Information Management' section of this newsletter.
- VAMC / VA Library (if applicable)
- Your own department / program
- GME

COBRA Benefits

If you need to extend your healthcare / dental benefits coverage after your departure, COBRA benefits are available to you. Information can be found online at: <http://www.hr.utah.edu/ben/summ/standard/COBRA.php> or by calling the Benefits Office at 801-581-7447.

Moonlighting Reminder

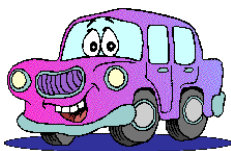
Remember that moonlighting authorizations do not carry over into the new academic year. If you plan to work outside your outlined houseofficer training after June 30<sup>th</sup>, be sure to submit a new 'Moonlighting Authorization' form. The form can be found on the GME website at:

[http://medicine.utah.edu/gme/directors/forms/moonlighting\\_request.pdf](http://medicine.utah.edu/gme/directors/forms/moonlighting_request.pdf).



Parking Permits

Terrace permits ('H' stickers) expire on June 30, 2009. New stickers will be available after June 23rd in the GME office (School of Medicine Room 1C412). You will need to pick up a new sticker to park on the 4th level of the south terrace after June 30th or you may be ticketed. Please be prepared to give us the number from your 'A' parking pass when you pick up your new sticker.



JUNE





## VERBAL ORDERS – MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

The following message was recently e-mailed to all houseofficers from Dr. Thomas Miller, Chief Medical Officer. Please be sure you are in compliance with these instructions:

### Cosign all verbal orders under "Orders to Approve"

When a verbal order is given, the nurse will route that order to your INBOX in PowerChart. To cosign, simply go to the INBOX and select "Orders to Approve." Highlight the order, right-click on it and select "approve." Please note that you can highlight multiple orders by holding down the "Control" key and then making your selection. All selected orders can then be signed at the same time.

There are currently 4,000 verbal orders that have not been cosigned. This is a significant delinquency in our medical records and needs to be rectified immediately.

For further information, you can review INBOX functionality at:

<http://intranet.uuhsc.utah.edu/ittraining/cpoe/> .

Select "INBOX" to review the brief training modules.



### All patients MUST have an order to admit them to the hospital.

Be certain to place the "Admit to..." order. Most patients will be admitted to "inpatient," but some may be "observation" or "bedded outpatient status." The hospital will not receive pay for the visit if this order is not present. These orders are available as options in all of the admission Power Plans (order sets).

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## COMMITTEE OPENINGS

If you are continuing next year with your residency we would love to have your input and ideas! There are openings on the following University Hospital and School of Medicine committees:



to

- Credentials Committee
- Critical Care Committee
- Graduate Medical Education Committee
- Infection Control Committee
- Quality Control Committee
- Risk Management Committee

For more information please contact Ginger Blanchard in the GME office at (801)581-2401 or you can email your questions or interest to [ginger.blanchard@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:ginger.blanchard@hsc.utah.edu).



## UTAH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

### Financial Services

Join Utah Medical Association (UMA) today! If you had joined last year, you could have saved thousands of dollars in discounts and services through UMA.



Utah Medical Association Financial Services (UMAFS) provides free financial counseling for UMA members. Receive personal one-on-one counseling from our qualified UMAFS representatives who are salaried, not commissioned, and work with physicians.

You can have full confidence in UMAFS to guide your financial future. This is one of the best values of UMA membership and one that many physicians have come to rely on. More information is at <http://www.utahmed.org/benefits.html>.

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## VARIABLE INTEREST RATES DECREASE

Effective July 1, 2009, interest rates on non-consolidated Stafford loans disbursed between July 1, 1998, and July 1, 2006, will see a decline.

This year's rate change will reflect an automatic decrease of 1.73%. Therefore, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the interest rates for the affected Stafford Loans will be:

- 1.88% (While In-School or Grace)
- 2.48% (During Repayment)

Rates for Stafford loans disbursed after July 1, 2006, remain fixed at 6.8%.

More details are available at *First for Residents* administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Take advantage of this valuable resource by joining the *First for Medical Education* group on FACEBOOK, or subscribe to the mailbox at <http://www.aamc.org/programs/first/residents/start.htm>.





## **THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS (NHSC)**

*Dedication, Caring, Commitment: A Call to Service for Primary Care Clinicians*

### **Now Accepting Loan Repayment Applications**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$300 million to support the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Approximately \$200 million will enable the NHSC Loan Repayment Program to assist more than 3,300 clinicians who are seeking opportunities to serve in our nation's health professional shortage areas.

NHSC clinicians are a unique group of dedicated and caring primary care providers who care for millions of people living in communities where health care is scarce. Eligible specialties include:

family medicine  
obstetrics/gynecology

general internal medicine  
gerontology

general pediatrics  
general psychiatry

**The NHSC can repay a physician's entire student loan debt:** In exchange for two years of service at an eligible high-need site, the NHSC Loan Repayment program offers repayment of educational loans for clinicians who are providing full-time clinical services. Up to \$50,000 (less if the total outstanding loan balance is lower than \$50,000) towards qualifying educational loan debt is available. Clinicians who stay at their sites longer may be eligible to apply for additional years of support.

**NHSC clinicians receive the same salary as non-NHSC clinicians:** Loan repayors negotiate their salaries with the employing site, but the NHSC requires that they be paid at least as much as they would in an equivalent Federal civil service position. In some cases, loan repayors fulfill their service commitment in their own or an established private practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

### **New Features:**

- **More Choice of Sites and Vacancies Eligible for Loan Repayment:** More than 7,000 already eligible service sites will be able to post significantly more new vacancies and increase the number of clinicians eligible for loan repayment awards at their sites. Additionally, more sites are being approved by the NHSC every day. **See Current NHSC Vacancies at: [www.nhscjobs.hrsa.gov](http://www.nhscjobs.hrsa.gov) .**
- **First-come, First-served:** Loan repayment awards to primary health care clinician applicants who are interested in loan repayment will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, opening new opportunities for areas in high-need sites located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) with lower HPSA scores. Applications will be accepted on an open, continuous basis until all Recovery Act funds are expended -- 15 months or sooner.
- **More Application Flexibility:** For the first time, primary health care clinicians interested in NHSC's loan repayment program do not need to be employed at the site at the time of application.
- **More Efficient Application Process: Most applications will be processed within 8 weeks of receipt of a complete application (i.e., all application supporting documentation received).**

**How to Apply:** Clinicians can begin applying for this NHSC opportunity at:

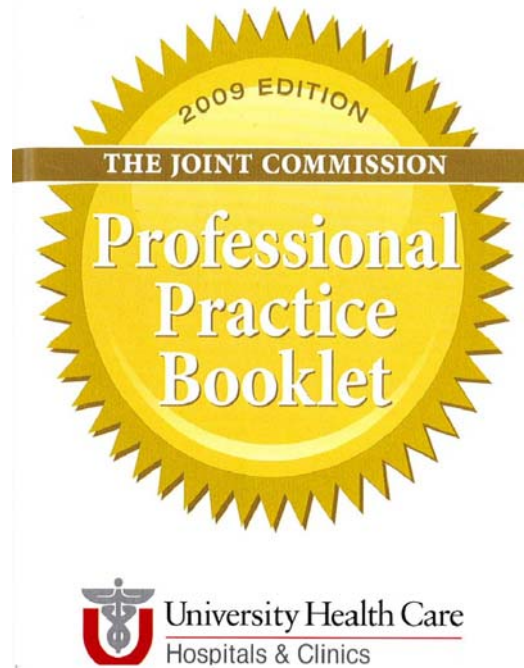
**[www.nhsc.hrsa.gov](http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov) 1-800-221-9393**



## EDUCATION/ QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY UPDATES

**Question:** What do you do if The Joint Commission asks a question you cannot answer?

**Answer:** *2009 Professional Practice Booklet!*



These handy little booklets have been distributed to the staff and physicians of University Health Care and are intended to provide you with reminders and updated information about key practices in our Hospitals and Clinics.

These booklets help you understand why we are accredited by The Joint Commission and how the survey process works. Inside are answers for many of the questions asked by The Joint Commission surveyors when they visit our organization to review our accreditation status. Remember, you do not have to know all of the answers, but *DO* need to know where to find them. Just reach into your labcoat pocket and pull out this booklet!

We appreciate your desire to continue to provide an exceptional patient experience. Please take a few minutes to review the content in the Professional Practice Booklet. If you do not have one, please contact Kevin Jones in Quality and Patient Safety at 1-2214 or [kevin.jones@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:kevin.jones@hsc.utah.edu).



**An *Rx* from Health Information Management (HIM)**

**A few tips on how to check out from HIM at the end of your residency:**

1. Sign charts concurrently and come to HIM once a week or more.
2. University Hospital checks out for HCH, UOC, and the main Hospital. Complete charts from HCH and UOC then check out at University Hospital.
3. Sign out is not complete until all charts are signed and HIM has cleared its computers. Allow time for both steps.
4. Best check out time is between 8:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

**Coding Tip of the month: Golden rule for clinical documentation**

**“If it’s not documented by the physician, it didn’t happen”**

In compliance and in coding, there is no deviation from this principle. We can’t code what is not documented, and we can’t bill for what is not coded.

Direct any questions to Physician Charting Areas. Phone numbers are at the bottom of your weekly letters, or email [himnewsletter@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:himnewsletter@hsc.utah.edu).

*Independence Day is less than a month away. If you’re wondering where in the Salt Lake area you can enjoy festivities and fireworks, here are a few suggestions:*



**Salt Lake City (West)**

<http://www.slcityevents.com/July4th.html>  
Jordan Park 900 West 1000 South

**South Salt Lake (July 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

<http://www.southsaltlakecity.com/RECREATION/freedomfestival.html>  
Granite High School 3305 South 500 East

**Sugarhouse Park**

<http://slsites.com/loc.html?l=131>  
2100 South 1300 East



**Sandy**

<http://sandy.utah.gov/government/community-events/fourth-of-july.html>  
10000 South 175 West

**Riverton**

[http://www.rivertoncity.com/downloads/community/town\\_days\\_brochure\\_09.pdf](http://www.rivertoncity.com/downloads/community/town_days_brochure_09.pdf)  
Riverton Park 12800 South 1300 West

**West Jordan**

<http://www.westernstampede.com/Files/2009Events.pdf>  
Veterans Memorial Park 1985 West 7800

***Have a Great Month of June!***