Columbia St. Mary's
A Passion for Patient Care℠

Date: October 29, 2013

To: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and Certified Nurse Midwives

From: Suzanne Wilkerson, MD
       Hospital EHR Medical Director

RE: CSM-CONNECT (patient portal) and OpenNotes

***Starting 11-1-2013*, patients with registered CSM-CONNECT (patient portal) accounts will be able to view authenticated (signed) Primary and Specialty Clinic note types as well as Hospital History & Physical and Discharge Summary note types.** Essentially, the *entire content* of your note will be viewable to the patient immediately upon your signature. This is an addition to current CSM-CONNECT viewing capabilities which include medications, problem lists, procedures, allergies, immunizations, and lab results.

When other note types are approved in the future, they will be made visible to patients retroactively to 11-1-2013. Patients already have full legal access to all of their records, but this change will increase the frequency and speed of access. **If you are not already creating notes that are clear and concise and free of bias, please start now.**

The goals of the OpenNotes and Patient Portal projects are to improve communication and coordination of care with patients, and help patients be more engaged and take active roles in their healthcare. These changes may elicit questions and concerns on the part of some physicians and clinicians. The attached FAQ should answer most of your questions. I also recommend visiting *myopennotes.org*.

Patients rightly expect transparency and CSM is excited to be on the forefront of partnering with patients and their families in this endeavor.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please do not hesitate to contact me.
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