

Date: 10-31-14

To: Columbia St. Mary's Physicians and Midlevel Staff

From: Robert Lyon, MD, Chief of Staff
Richard Shimp, MD, Milwaukee Hospital Medical Staff President
Bruce Rowe, MD, Ozaukee Hospital Medical Staff President
Suzanne Wilkerson, MD, Hospital EHR Medical Director

RE: **Electronic (Paperless) Documentation – 2015 Mandate**

In January 2012, all Hospitalists and most ED physicians started using PowerNote to document their patient encounters. In addition, many of you have voluntarily chosen to document in the EHR. Since then, we have struggled with the confusion of a "split" patient record and many physicians have asked that we complete our transition to having all physician notes visible in the EHR. As there is currently minimal information in the paper chart, many providers and clinicians neglect to review this information, putting our patients at risk.

The benefits of transitioning from paper documentation are many, including:

- Improved access to patient information across any CSM facility where our patients receive care
- Improved safety and quality through more integrated communication between physicians and other caregivers

In order to successfully transition away from paper, resources have mobilized to provide a strong foundation:

- **Templates:** Custom PowerNote templates have been created and will continue to be developed and optimized as needed.
- **Support:** In-house EHR support was implemented at both campuses during August and September. Additional support will be mobilized during the initial phases of electronic transition.
- **Training:** PowerNote classes for new users will be available November 24th through December 17th. A training schedule will be communicated next week.
- **Optimization:** Drop-In sessions will be available and communicated at a later date. Users can learn tips/tricks, and how to use the system more efficiently.
- **Access:** Additional desktops deployed on inpatient units.

Mandates

- **January 12, 2015**, go-live date for mandatory PowerNote: Ozaukee and Riverwoods campuses
- **February 16, 2015**, go-live date for mandatory PowerNote: Milwaukee campus
- Dictation will continue to be available for H+Ps, Consults, Discharge Summaries, and Operative Reports.
- **PowerNote will be mandated for non-dictated physician documentation** such as daily progress notes, post-op notes, and other documentation that is currently being written on paper templates or paper progress notes.

We are currently in the process of identifying Providers that are not using PowerNote. A separate letter will follow to Providers that must attend training. PowerNote training sessions will be held at the Heritage Center and Ozaukee campus.

Implementing an EHR has created challenges for every health system. We are no exception. We need all staff to assist us in this effort. Your support and participation is greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with questions or concerns regarding these exciting changes for 2015.