This week the new topic is the electronic documentation of our H&Ps, Consults, OP Notes, Discharge Summaries, etc., known in MEDITECH as "Pdoc." I will discuss Education and Stop Print as well.

Documentation is central to everything we do. It is how we tell our patients' story and keep track of their progress (and sometimes their lack of progress), communicate with each other and is the basis for how we get paid. In a short time (45 days) we will move from using pen and paper to doing this in the Electronic Health Record (EHR.) When the EHR was designed, the goal was to provide you multiple ways to document within the application. Two types of progress notes will be available. One is based primarily on "Point and Click", which many of us are familiar with after using EHRs in our offices. The second note is designed to allow a more "free form" style of documentation and is much less template driven than the "Point and Click" note. Text can be entered into both of these by typing or dictating (using Dragon for the latter). Which one we use is a matter of personal style and preference. Transcription will remain available for H&Ps, Consult notes, Op/procedure notes and discharge summaries.

Let's compare where we are today with documentation, to where we will be on Sept. 1:

**Current state:**
- Progress notes are sometimes illegible.
- Cannot search notes by specialty.
  - Must mine the chart to find relevant information, your own or another physicians’ notes.
- Lab data can be transcribed incorrectly or the results from the wrong date can be entered.
- Radiology results must be written.
- Active meds must be written in, when the MAR is available to verify the patient's current treatment.

**Future state:**
- Progress notes become legible.
- Vital signs and lab results are imported directly into the notes, no transcribing.
- Notes can be searched by specialty for faster review.
- Med lists can be imported.
- Notes can be dictated in real time using Dragon.

A major concern we all have is how MEDITECH works, and how the transition to the EHR will affect us. One of the most common questions I have been getting the last few weeks is "I want to see it, when can I get in and see the EHR and use it?" The answer is "Go to training." Most of the questions we have will be addressed in training. The key to being ready for the EHR and being prepared for the Go-Live is going to training. You can sign up for training through one of the following:

- By calling the CME office at 725-3105
- By e-mailing the CME office at cme@covhs.org
- By signing up at www.CovenantEHR.org
Finally, remember that Covenant Health will **stop printing Lab, Radiology and other results** and placing them in the paper charts on **August 6th**.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 725-0265.

Until next week,
Lawrence Martinelli, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Chief Medical Informatics Officer
Medical Director, Case Management/Utilization Review
Covenant Health
3615 19th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79410