With only a little over a month before we implement the Covenant Health EHR on Sept. 1, the MEDITECH team is continuing to work furiously to ensure that we are prepared to launch the system on schedule.

The main topic of my communication this week is the Problem List component of the EHR. I will also mention education, Stop Print and announce another IT Fair.

The Problem List (or assessment) is central to our patient care. It is where we organize and communicate the various issues a patient has, the steps we are taking to address those issues, and any progress the patient is making (or not making.) It is often the first thing we look at when we see a new patient in consultation or when we are covering for a colleague. The MEDITECH EHR functionality includes a robust Problem List. This is a valuable component. However, as with many elements associated with the EHR, it is still a change from our current processes, and therefore, something to which we must adapt. To compare and contrast where we are today and where we will be after going live on the new system, consider the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current State</th>
<th>Future State:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Patients rarely have a comprehensive problem list</td>
<td>• Once a Problem List is built, it can be carried forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If a problem list is present, it is not always up-to-date.</td>
<td>• Recorded with ICD-9 codes, and eventually with ICD-10 codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Problem lists are not tied to ICD-9 codes for provider billing</td>
<td>• Each provider can maintain their own unique problem list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Physicians and office staff must spend time looking up and recording ICD-9</td>
<td>• Problems can be imported into progress notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>codes. This time will exponentially with ICD-10</td>
<td>• The Problem List automatically populates the discharge summary at dismissal, which increases the efficiency of creating discharge summaries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The “Future State” problem list will allow us to better organize the care of our patients, however it does require that we populate and maintain it.

Following are a few important notes about EHR education:

- EHR training started on July 15th and will continue through the end of August. We have received positive feedback from physicians and midlevels who have already attended training.
- There are two components to the MEDITECH training – Session 1 and Session 2 – for which you can earn up to 4 hours of CME credit.
- Dragon is not included in the MEDITECH training sessions; separate training sessions are being conducted. You can sign up for Dragon training by calling the CIS Department at 725-4189.
- Please sign up and complete both training sessions as soon as possible – this is not something that can wait until the last minute.
- The three ways to sign up for training are:
  o Call the CME office at 725-3105
  o E-mail the CME office at cme@covhs.org
  o Sign up at www.CovenantEHR.org
Also, please remember that Covenant Health will stop printing Lab, Radiology and other results and placing them in the paper charts on **August 6th**.

Finally, I’m pleased to announce that we will be holding another **Physician IT Showcase on August 8th**. We are planning an evening event similar to the session we held in June. There will be areas where you can have your application access verified (and updated, if necessary), as well as workstations running MEDITECH with CIS personnel there to show you the system and answer any questions you may have. We are still determining the time and location of the event, and will notify you when the details are finalized.

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