

Memorandum

To: Mary K. Greene, MD.
Anne L. Calkins, MD.
Dawn Light, MD.
Mark Warren, DO.
Frank Plank, DO.

From: Elizabeth H. Ey, M.D.

Date: January 3, 2016



- **Kettering Resident Night CT Teleradiology Coverage** – One of the Kettering radiology residents left this past fall and the program is short a resident. There are 7 weeks in the next 6 months that they will not be able to provide teleradiology coverage for afterhours CT studies. The first of those weeks is starting this Monday, Jan. 4. The on call radiologist will need to review the CT studies performed after 11 pm and either dictate a final reading or call the ED physician and give a preliminary report and document that in the Preliminary Report section in PACS including the time and the physician the report was called to. In order to prevent you from being interrupted twice for every after hours CT request, I will instruct the CT techs to proceed with all Stat CT orders they receive after hours unless they really believe the order to be wrong or inappropriate. If they need clarification on how to proceed with a CT order, they will need to discuss it with the on call radiologist. Otherwise, once the CT is completed, the radiology staff will call you as usual after hours. Please be sure they have your correct phone number.
- **Expanded Teleradiology Coverage** - With the increasing demand for US studies afterhours and the weeks we now face without Kettering resident assistance afterhours, we have contacted two teleradiology groups to provide preliminary results via teleradiology. The cost is about \$180,000 per year for preliminary results, based on current volumes. When I learned that the Kettering residents were not going to be available every week, I started a discussion with DCH administration, including Melanie Wilson and Ben Goodstein, to help cover this cost. Ben and Melanie are supportive of the plan, especially in light of the plan to open a second ED in Springboro. Ben is concerned that if DCH pays for teleradiology services for studies that we ultimately bill for it will be in conflict with Stark legislation. He has suggested that our attorney, Bev Shillito, discuss the options to cover teleradiology cost with the DCH attorney. I am scheduled to meet with Bev Shillito this Wednesday to discuss her thoughts and suggestions. I feel confident we will be able to make an arrangement for teleradiology coverage that meets everyone's needs. It may take several months to complete the contract and get the teleradiology radiologists credentialed.
- **Afterhours US studies** - I feel very frustrated by the increasing number of requests for US studies afterhours that do not change patient management. The US techs are also tired and frustrated. I have been in discussion with Dr. Krzmarzick as well as Ben Goodstein and Melanie Wilson. There have been several suggestions made as ways to improve the situation. I believe there must be a clinical guideline for work up of children with abdominal pain, possible appendicitis the ED providers must follow. I have been charged with getting an Appendicitis CPG in place with the ED, Pediatric Surgery, and Radiology as soon as possible. Please send me your suggestions. Melanie is to hire more US techs so that none are expected to work the shift after being on call. When the teleradiology service is in place, the US studies can be sent to them.
- **Radiologist Meetings** – We radiologists are required by the hospital to meet as a group on a regular basis. Traditionally, we have met on the fourth Monday of the month at the main campus between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm with lunch provided. Attendance to the meetings by the radiologists has not been very good lately. I am open to alternate suggestions on time, location, and frequency of the meetings. I believe we need to have about 85% attendance per year by each radiologist. With the current plan, that means coming to 10 out of 12 meetings per year. You can attend in person or can attend by phone. Please share your thoughts with each of us.
- **Next radiologist meeting** – Depends on what I hear from each of you. Unless there are alternate suggestions, we will meet at the main campus in the conference room on Monday, Jan 24 at 12:30 pm. Please attend and share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with everyone. Thanks!