

REPORT OF THE AMA ORGANIZED MEDICAL STAFF SECTION
SUMMARY REPORT OF FINDINGS

(A-07)

Subject: Survey of Growing Hospitalist Trend

Presented by: Steve T. House, MD, Chair

1 SUMMARY

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3 In April/May 2007 a survey was sent to 3,575 hospitalists and 10,000 primary care
4 (family medicine and internal medicine) physicians for whom the AMA or SHM has e-
5 mail addresses. A total of 1,888 surveys were completed (1,095 hospitalists and 793
6 primary care physicians completed surveys), yielding a 14% response rate.

7
8 *Hospitalists and primary care physicians believe that communication between them*
9 *needs to be improved. Primary care physicians who refer to hospitalists report that*
10 *their skills have diminished in some areas. In general, there are large differences in*
11 *primary care physicians' and hospitalists' opinions. Awareness of AMA-OMSS*
12 *activities is low among hospitalists and primary care physicians.*

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14 KEY FINDINGS

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16 ➤ Seven out of ten (72%) primary care physicians report that their hospital has a
17 hospitalists program. Most physicians (85%) report that use of their hospitalists
18 program is not mandatory. 72% of physicians report that their hospitalists
19 program is formally approved by the organized medical staff.
20
21 ➤ 91% of hospitalists compared with 36% of primary care physicians believe
22 hospitalists are more effective than primary care physicians when it comes to
23 delivering acute care.
24
25 ➤ The majority of hospitalists (96%) and primary care physicians (69%) think
26 hospitalists are more efficient because they are available in-house throughout the
27 day.
28
29 ➤ Almost all hospitalists (95%) believe hospitalists have improved the overall
30 quality of care provided in the hospital, whereas 40% of primary care physicians
31 believe so.
32
33 ➤ The majority of hospitalists (96%) and primary care physicians (73%) believe
34 hospitalists provide a valuable service to primary care physicians.
35

- 1 ➤ Approximately two out of three hospitalists (60%) and primary care physicians
2 (66%) agree that the hospitalists model compromises the ability of primary care
3 physicians to maintain current inpatient skills and clinical competencies.
4
- 5 ➤ 48% of hospitalists agree that hospitalists are effective about communicating
6 patient care information to primary care physicians to primary care physicians at
7 admission and during the patient’s stay, whereas 49% of primary care physicians
8 disagree.
9
- 10 ➤ 70% of hospitalists believe that they are effective about communicating patient
11 care information to primary care physicians at the time of discharge, while
12 primary care physicians are divided on whether hospitalists are effective (31%
13 agree, 39% disagree, 30% neutral).
14
- 15 ➤ Hospitalists (93%) are more likely than primary care physicians (54%) to think
16 that on average in-patients are satisfied with the care they have received from
17 hospitalists.
18
- 19 ➤ 68% of primary care physicians who refer all of their patients to hospitalists and
20 51% of primary care physicians who refer some of their patients to hospitalist
21 report their skills have diminished in some areas.
22
- 23 ➤ 63% of physicians are unaware of the AMA’s organized medical staff section
24 activities.
25
- 26 ➤ Hospitalists want the AMA-OMSS to provide leadership training, billing/coding
27 assistance, tools for improving communication between hospitalists and primary
28 care physicians, contract negotiation information, and information on hospitalists
29 models/best practices.