Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Thursday, April 7, 2011
1:30 - 2:20 p.m., Room E-216

Barry Aaronson, MD, FACP, SFHM
Hospitalist & Associate Medical Director for Clinical Informatics
Virginia Mason Medical Center

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Clinical Associate Professor, Medical Education & Biomedical Informatics
University of Washington, Seattle

"Using the EHR to Improve Hospital Safety and Quality"

This talk will focus on the two issues within applied clinical informatics. D33uring the first part of the talk, Dr. Aaronson will describe a possible solution to the problem of suboptimal provider compliance with national quality measures for inpatients. Compliance with these quality measures translates into better outcomes for patients, thus it is imperative that hospitals find ways to achieve 100% compliance with these measures. Dr. Aaronson will describe how through a customized web page displayed on a single screen within the EHR we give providers real time feedback about the status of multiple quality measures for multiple patients. This dashboard is displayed on large wall mounted monitors creating awareness for the entire care team in an effort to achieve the quality target of 100%. The second half of the talk will focus on inpatient safety: A subset of inpatients that die or are transferred to the Intensive Care Unit may demonstrate critically abnormal vital signs hours before their critical event. For some of these patients, the primary care team is unaware of this deterioration. Dr. Aaronson will describe a tool developed within the EMR and tested with a randomized clinical trial that attempts to improve out-comes for these patients by improving detection of these patients by the hospital Rapid Response Team.

Dr. Aaronson received his MD degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Following residency he served as Chief Residents at Walter Reed. He has been elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Senior Fellow in Hospital Medicine. He completed his NLM Post-Doctoral Fellowship within the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics at the University of Washington in 2009 and now splits his time at Virginia Mason Medical Center between work as a Hospitalist and as the Associate Medical Director for Clinical Informatics.

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