Venous Thromboembolism Education & Prevention
March is Blood Clot Awareness Month

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We're excited to announce our rate of blood clots — also called venous thromboembolisms, or VTEs — is improving as a result of the hard work of our entire team of clinicians, who are working closely with our patients to ensure they understand and are adhering to their blood clot prevention therapies.

While our numbers are improving, we still have work to do and need your help!

In-person education for all nursing staff, clinical pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, and residents rolled-out mid-February. These training sessions include new tools designed to make our care more effective and efficient, and focus on the three essential elements of our 3M VTE Prevention Bundle:

**Movement:** helping our patients walk “early, often, and far”

**Medication:** ensuring “every dose every time”

**Machine:** using leg pumps when patients are in bed or in a chair to help circulate their blood

“It is so inspiring to see how our leaders and staff have come together to reduce the risks of blood clots for our patients, and I am encouraged by the early results of these efforts,” said Jodi Joyce, chief quality officer at UI Health.

Why Is VTE Prevention a Top Organizational Goal?

Blood clots are a significant growing public health problem, affecting as many as 900,000 Americans each year and leading to approximately 100,000 premature deaths annually. Unfortunately, sudden death is the first symptom in about 25% of people with pulmonary embolism (PE), and 10–30% of people die within one month of diagnosis.

Importance of Patient Adherence

Evidence shows that patients who miss one or more anticoagulant doses are five times more likely to get a VTE, while those who understand the risks related to VTE have a higher compliance rate. Clinicians who are more confident in their knowledge regarding VTE risks and prevention strategies have better adhering patients.

How You Can Help

Help us prevent VTEs by attending trainings, ensuring all three elements of the 3M bundle are met, and documenting all assessments, interventions, education, and patient responses. Every clinician plays a key role in educating our patients and ensuring compliance with prevention of VTE!

Education classes run through April. If you haven’t attended training yet and are a nurse, nurse tech, clinical pharmacist, physical or occupational therapist, or resident, please sign up through your LMS!

Be on the look-out for VTE prevention awareness posters, flyers, table tents, digital signage, and more around the hospital!

For more information on how you can get involved, visit VTE.UIHealth.Care.

Executive Sponsors

Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek, Chief Medical Officer
Shelly Major, Chief Nursing Officer
Jodi Joyce, Chief Quality Officer

VTE Prevention Committee Co-Chairs

Dr. John Quigley, Hematology/Oncology
Jill Stemmerman, Associate Chief Nursing Officer
Dr. Scott Ziporin, Vascular Surgery
Neonatal ICU Celebrates Second CLABSI-Free Year!

The Neonatal ICU staff including nursing, physician and support staff celebrated a fantastic and note-worthy achievement! It has been more than two years since a patient in the NICU has had a Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI)!

The “Anti-CLABSI Team,” or ACT, has been hard at work with their ACTion plan for the past 6 years chasing zero. The efforts continue with a long-standing pay-off. The unit has brought the infection rate from 4.7/1000 to zero as the result of teamwork, continuous process improvement and use of the latest evidence-based practices.

The prevention of these infections have an extremely positive outcome for the smallest, most fragile and vulnerable patients at UI Health.

Congratulations to the NICU Team for the hard work and dedication!

Dr. Cynthia Barnes-Boyd Health Center Dedication

On March 4, leaders from UI Health, Chicago Public Schools, and the Chicago Department of Public Health celebrated the re-opening of a school-based health and wellness center newly dedicated to the late Dr. Cynthia Barnes-Boyd, former director of the Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at UIC and former director of school-based healthcare for Mile Square Health Center.

The school-based clinic, part of the Mile Square Health Center network of federally qualified health centers, is located at John B. Drake Elementary in Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood.

The newly renovated clinic includes three exam rooms, an on-site laboratory, and space for providing care to the entire community. Services offered include immunizations, physical exams, sports physicals, reproductive healthcare, and behavioral-health support.

Nominate a Physician of the Year and a Resident/Fellow of the Year!

Nominate a physician and resident/fellow that you feel demonstrate the qualities of a true class act.
One attending physician and one resident/fellow will be chosen!
Nominations will be accepted March 15 to June 1.
To complete the nomination form, visit the intranet or Nomination.UIHealth.Care.

The August 2018 CMO News featured last year’s honorees: Dr. Carissa Tyo, Physician of the Year, and Dr. Karim Khan, Resident of the Year.
3i Project Update: ‘Workflow Walkthrough’ Complete

In the first week of February, UI Health successfully completed the second phase of the Epic implementation plan, named “Workflow Walkthrough.” This was the first opportunity for UI Health stakeholders to view the Epic system and gain an understanding of the new user workflows that we will be adopting. We are now in the project phase named “Readiness and Content Review,” which continues until July 2019, when we will transition into the “Testing” phase. Application analysts have started building the UI Health Epic environment based on the foundation system and input from the Workflow Walkthroughs. We still look forward to the planned 350+ Readiness Sessions, where issues or concerns with adopting the Epic best-practice foundation system workflows will be discussed. In addition, these sessions are used to collaborate with operational subject-matter experts (SME) to configure the Epic system.

The Co-CMIOs for the 3i Project, Drs. Jonathan Radosta and David Chestek, are working with the physician SMEs from specialty areas to review the clinical content embedded in the Epic foundation system and beginning to plan for clinician operational readiness to adopt the new workflows. All of these preparation activities should lead to a successful Epic go-live at UI Health on May 9, 2020.

Thank you to everyone for your participation and time dedicated to this project. Your efforts have kept us on target and continue to help us be ready for our go-live date! For more information on the 3i Project and current activities, please visit the 3i website on the intranet.

Project Director
Michael Jhattu,
3i Project Director,
Director of IS Applications
Information Services

Executive Sponsor
Michael B. Zenn, CEO

NOW AVAILABLE
Visit the intranet tile to download the Epic logo, PowerPoint templates, email signature, and more!
Annual fundraiser supports St. Baldrick’s Foundation

Eleven people shaved their heads to raise awareness, and money, for cancer research at the St. Baldrick’s Foundation fundraising event hosted by the Department of Pediatrics on Feb. 22.

Karen Fischer, a surgical nurse who has shaved her head each year for 10 years, was the top fundraiser this year. She raised around $1,800.

“I do it for the kids,” she said. “They are way braver than I am.

“It’s funny. When you have a bald head, people look at you differently — they don’t know if you are sick or why your head is bald. People notice,” Fischer said.

UI Health is part of the Children’s Oncology Group — a collaboration with Rush and Stroger hospitals — and has received more than $2 million in grant funding from the foundation since 2006, which has placed patients in nearly 100 open clinical trials. These trials include front-line treatment for many types of childhood cancers; studies to determine the underlying biology of these diseases; and trials on new and emerging treatments, supportive care, and survivorship. The group recently received a $150,000 infrastructure grant from St. Baldrick’s in November.

Childhood cancer affects about 1 in every 285 children in the U.S. In 80 percent of cases, children are diagnosed after cancer has spread.

For Tonya Thomas, who attended the event in honor of her son Johnathan, the event was about the need for “more exposure, more research, more funding and more fundraising.”

“There is not enough exposure for these cancers like there is for breast, prostate or colon cancer,” Thomas said, “and our kids are fighting their best against these cancers. September is childhood awareness month and I actually didn’t even know until our family was faced with this diagnosis, but everyone knows that October is breast cancer awareness month. Not to say one is less important than the other, but these little warriors are our future. There needs to be more done so these cancers can stop taking the lives of our little ones, our future!”

Johnathan was 13 when he passed away from metastatic alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma in November. He had been diagnosed just 15 months earlier.

The single-day event raised nearly $7,000.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

MARCH 30

Doctors’ Day
In honor of National Doctors’ Day, UI Health would like to recognize and thank our doctors for the integral role you play in our healthcare community. Your passion and support of our mission is exemplified in your daily practice of our core values: Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence. Thank you for all you do!

March 31 – April 6

Patient Access Week
Thank you to our Patient Access teams for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our patients!

April 2

Pinwheel Garden Education
Save the date for the unveiling of a special pinwheel garden at UI Health, which honors those who have offered the gift of life and received a second chance at life through transplantation. Each pinwheel represents organ and tissue donors and recipients from UI Health in 2018.

Breakfast
6:30-9 am
Conference Room 1130

Pinwheel Garden Dedication
9-9:15 am
1740 W. Taylor St., front lawn

April 22

Employee Engagement Survey
The Employee Engagement Survey will launch April 22! Be on the lookout for more information on the intranet.