



FREDERICK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Dear Colleague,

4/4/11

The process for preoperative H&P's written by physicians who are not on the FMH medical staff is changing, due to new regulation interpretations by CMS and Joint Commission. Fundamentally, these organizations now say that the hospital may not accept a preoperative H&P from someone unless we have verified that that person has a license to practice. (Presumably to prevent auto mechanics, high school seniors, and Māori tribesmen from writing preop H&P's.)

The hospital is now obligated to verify, in advance, the credentials of whoever is completing the H&P. (As an aside, we are now also required to do this for any provider who orders treatment at the IV infusion center – we must verify their credentials prior to accepting those orders.)

The Periop Services Committee and the Medical Staff Office will comply with this requirement by use of the attached request for "H&P Privileges". Basically, any provider who will be writing H&P's needs to either: 1) already be a member of the FMH staff, or

2) fill out the attached form and submit it with a copy of their license to the Medical Staff Office.

The fax number for the Medical Staff Office (MSO) is 240-566-3650. The MSO will verify the license is current, and that person's H&P's will be recognized as valid.

We have set a target date of April 15 to have this process completed. We need your help! If your office has providers who are not on staff at FMH, but who write H&P's (eg: NP's or PA's), please get them signed up as soon as possible. We very much appreciate your efforts on behalf of our mutual patients, and apologize in advance for the inconvenience of this new requirement. If you have any questions at all, please contact Susan Hickerson at 240-566-3475 or shickerson@fmh.org.

Thanks very much for your cooperation. The hospital has no choice but to comply with these mandates, but we've tried to make it as simple as possible for our providers. We'd like to get this process completed as soon as possible, since we do NOT want to end up with a situation where preop patients arrive for surgery with an "invalid" H&P. We appreciate your help complying with one more regulation...

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