

Agenda Item:5.3.6
Prepared by: M.B. Thomas
Meeting Date: October 23 & 24, 2008

Health Alliance Safety Partnership

Summary of Request:

This report is to inform the board of updates in the Health Alliance Safety Partnership.

Historical Perspective/Background Information:

As reported in the July 2008 Board meeting, the Health Alliance Safety Project (HASP) has undergone operational changes in their program including a vacancy in the primary investigator's position and a decision by the MD Anderson Internal Review Board (IRB) not to provide IRB review for the community hospitals involved in the pilot. Since the last board report, other organizational changes have occurred which staff believe have put the operations on hold until further evaluation.

On July 30, an announcement was sent to participating members of the pilot notifying them that we would not enroll any additional participants in the program until a decision had been made about the future operations of the program.

On October 9, staff spoke to John Bingham VP, Performance Improvement & Chief Quality Officer who indicated that they are conducting a review to evaluate the program (Attachment A).

When this review is completed, staff will evaluate the status of the pilot and provide recommendations to the Board at that time.

Staff Recommendations:

None. This report is for information only.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER

Attachment A

October 15, 2008

Mary Beth Thomas, RN, PhD ©
Director of Nursing Practice/Education
Board of Nurse Examiners
333 Guadalupe #3-460
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mary Beth:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify M. D. Anderson Cancer Center's (MDACC) position with regard to the current and future status of the Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership (HASP) pilot research program involving M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and the Board of Nurse Examiners. Our current understanding of the pilot was that on July 19, 2007, the Board of Nursing approved an extension of the Patient Safety Pilot Study through July 2009 for the existing 7 hospitals in the pilot. We assumed that this project would continue through July 2009.

However, on July 30, 2008, we received an email notice from Debora Simmons that: "...the Board of Nursing (BON) has requested we not enroll any additional participants in the program until the future operations of the program are resolved. Any cases submitted to HASP will be referred to the institutions peer review program. Cases currently enrolled in the program will continue to resolution." We have had no further communications regarding the BON concerns, preferences, or direction for HASP except for your call last Thursday, requesting an update.

Therefore, based on the July 30 communication, it is our intention to complete the investigation of the cases submitted prior to that notice and issue a final report with the conclusions and recommendations from the pilot study. Deborah Simmons is in the process of completing those cases. Since Sherry Martin (named PI on the IRB Study approval) retired from MDACC on August 30, 2008, we will be submitting Geri Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director, Nursing Research, as the replacement PI to the MDACC IRB for this study. Dr. Wood (in conjunction with Deborah Simmons) will oversee the required submissions to our IRB and will assume responsibility for developing and submitting our final report to the Board of Nursing.

We hope this adequately summarizes for you what is happening at MDACC relative to this pilot study. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



John Bingham
VP of Performance Improvement &
Chief Quality Officer



Barbara Summers, PhD, R.N., NEA-BC
Vice President and Chief Nursing Office
Head, Division of Nursing

cc. Deborah Simmons, RN, MSN, CCRN, CCNS
Geri Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN

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