Montefiore Marks 10-Year Anniversary of Conjoined Twins’ Recovery

The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) is celebrating the groundbreaking recovery of formerly conjoined twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre, now 12-years-old, with a special ceremony in Grand Hall on the Moses Campus August 4. The Aguirres were craniopagus twins, or twins joined at the head. The separation of conjoined twins is a highly technical and challenging procedure; the historical rate of one or both twins surviving the procedure at the time of the Aguirres’ surgery was roughly 50 percent.

The boys were slowly dying from their condition when they arrived in New York from the Philippines in September 2003. The delicate separation surgeries, performed in four stages over a period of 10 months, represented a new approach to a devastating medical condition. The Aguirres were among the world’s first to successfully undergo a staged surgery.

“Carl and Clarence lived as conjoined twins for more than two years, and, in the time since, have made developmental advances that continue defying the odds of twins who have undergone this type of surgery,” says James T. Goodrich, MD, PhD, Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery, CHAM, and Professor, Clinical Neurological Surgery, Pediatrics and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Einstein, who led the CHAM surgical team that separated the children.

The boys, who live with their family in Westchester County, are now in seventh grade. Carl loves playing video games, eating ice cream and playing with his brother. Clarence loves to dance, sing and read books.

Because of CHAM’s pioneering, multidisciplinary approach, staged surgeries to separate craniopagus twins have now become the recommended standard of care for neurosurgeons, accepted by both the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons.

SAP HCM Plans September Roll-Out

Last year, Montefiore began its transition to SAP’s Human Capital Management (HCM) system, an integrated human resources (HR) and payroll system that is reflective of the theme: “Changing the Way We Do HR and Payroll Business.” The system will go live September 22.

In the months since the project began, the SAP HCM Project Team, composed of associates from HR, Finance, Payroll, Business Information Systems and Montefiore Information Technology, has made significant progress in implementing a core foundation for the development of HR/payroll business technology solutions.

Part of the broader SAP business platform, SAP HCM is not only replacing the current HR/payroll system, but also initiating automated workflows in which managers will process HR transactions, including position control and personnel actions. In addition, a self-serve reporting module is being introduced to empower managers to generate standard reports.

Integral to the new system is an electronic Table of Organization, which connects all associates by their position in an organizational chart reflecting reporting relationships within Montefiore’s hierarchy and overall business structure.

Training courses are now available through the online Talent Management site. Courses have been assigned to all associates who will be utilizing the automated workflow and reporting features of the system once it goes live.

Stakeholders Sign-off on Re-engineered Epic Workflows

Last month’s final re-engineering session marks a significant milestone in Montefiore’s Epic implementation, as Montefiore Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and stakeholders approved nearly all clinical and operational workflows that required revision. This brings the configuration and content build of Montefiore’s Epic system one step closer toward completion.

Clinicians, managers and staff across Montefiore are providing the Epic team with Montefiore-specific content to input into the system. Content supports various steps in a clinical and operational workflow, and is a necessary component for clinical functions, such as nurses documenting patient notes and physicians ordering lab tests or medications for patients within the Epic system. However, some content, such as reports, order sets and notes that Montefiore associates are accustomed to seeing, will be adjusted to reflect the re-engineered workflows and improve workflow inefficiencies.

“With re-engineered workflows being green-lit for the build, we now have a clearer overview of the structure of Montefiore’s Epic system, and our Epic team can focus more on retrieving and building Montefiore-specific content for the system,” says Michael Prilutsky, Vice President and Executive Project Director, Epic, Montefiore.

The ongoing involvement and contribution of various Montefiore stakeholders is vital to the content review and system build as this process continues to evolve.
Montefiore and Einstein Reach New Milestone

Montefiore and Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have reached a new milestone in their more than 50-year partnership. Recently, Montefiore and Yeshiva University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Montefiore to assume Einstein’s operations. Yeshiva remains the degree-granting institution with a key role in the educational aspects of the arrangement.

“We see this as a pivotal moment to evolve our collective agendas of scientific excellence, extraordinary teaching programs and outstanding care for the communities we serve,” says Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore. “Montefiore-Einstein will now most certainly rise to the top tier of academic medicine—nothing can hold us back.”

The agreement will also provide for one unified faculty, employed by Montefiore, who will continue to mentor and teach Einstein’s students and Montefiore’s residents.

What Physicians Need to Know About the Sunshine Act

The Sunshine Act, also known as Open Payments, is a new federal law that requires drug, device, or biological medical supply manufacturers to disclose all financial relationships with physicians and teaching hospitals to the federal government.

Payments that have to be reported by manufacturers include consulting fees, gifts, entertainment, travel, education, research, grants, and other payments. This information will be available to the public starting September 30, 2014. The Act is intended to give consumers information to make informed decisions about their healthcare professionals.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging physicians to register via a two-step process. First, the physician must register in CMS’s Enterprise Portal (Enterprise Identification Management System—EDM) and then in the Open Payments System in order to view the data reported.

Registration is optional, but is necessary to review or dispute data reported to CMS relating to any payments. Any inaccurate data submitted by manufacturers must be disputed by August 27, 2014.


For more information on Open Payments or the registration process, visit http://go.cms.gov/openpayments. Any technical issues should be directed to the Open Payments Help Desk at openpayments@cms.hhs.gov or 1-855-326-8366.

Please remember that all payments must also be disclosed to the Department of Compliance by means of the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Survey available at: http://www.montefiore.org/information-for-professionals.

Clinical Trial Spotlight

Adolescent AIDS Program Invites Teens to Participate in Study

The Adolescent AIDS Program at Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) has been selected as a site for a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study to examine the safety and acceptability of a vaginal ring containing dapivirine (an anti-retroviral medication) in sexually active young women ages 15-17. The dapivirine-containing vaginal ring—which, like the birth control ring, is changed monthly—has been studied extensively in women ages 18 and older. Among adult women, the ring has proven to be safe. Studies on its efficacy in HIV prevention are ongoing.

The Adolescent AIDS Program study will be conducted over a period of 12 weeks, with the goal of discovering whether the ring is also a safe and acceptable HIV prevention method in sexually active teenage girls. Study visits will include HIV education, clinical examinations and safety monitoring.

Parental consent is needed. Compensation will be provided to all participants.

For more information, contact the Adolescent AIDS Program at 347-346-1535.

Montefiore Celebrates World Breastfeeding Week

Growing medical evidence suggests breast milk is a far healthier alternative to formula, and Montefiore is committed to supporting nursing mothers as patients and in the workplace. In conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week August 1-8, Montefiore’s Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health, Pediatrics and Nursing are hosting informational sessions on the benefits of breastfeeding.

For a full schedule of events, visit the intranet.