

Inpatient Care

Hospitalists, physicians dedicated to on-site management of inpatient care, are able to respond quickly to changes in a hospital patient's status while preserving the patient's relationship with his primary care physician.

“Primary care physicians face a special challenge when their patients require hospital admission,” observes Jose A. Villaplana, MD, CHCQM, FAIHQ, senior medical director of the

As a result, primary care physicians may not be aware of real-time changes in their inpatients' status. Unexpected emergencies in the office or delays in traffic may interfere with them reaching the hospital to visit their patients and make necessary changes in care orders.

These inconveniences can translate into lengthier — and more costly — hospital stays for their patients.

“There is a better way to manage inpatient care,” assures Dr. Villaplana.

“A primary care physician can temporarily transfer management of a patient's care to a *hospitalist*, an in-house hospital physician whose only concern is managing a patient's care and

progress during the hospital stay, from admission through discharge, when the patient is returned to his or her primary physician's care.”

At TCMA, a physician-owned and -operated medical group with offices in Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and Florida, Dr. Villaplana is joined by Carmen A. Coiscou, MD, and Soma SSK Jyothula, MD, in providing quality hospitalist care in the Tampa Bay area.

Growing interest

Hospitalists have long been a mainstay of inpatient care in Europe and Canada. Their contributions to favorable patient outcomes are now being recognized in the United States, as well.

“We do not take the place of the primary care physician,” emphasizes Dr. Villaplana. “In fact, it is the primary care physician, not the hospital or an insurance company, who makes the decision to bring a hospitalist onto his or her patient's medical team.”

The primary care physician also selects which hospitalist group or even which hospitalist will accept temporary responsibility for patient care.

“This is true even if a patient is admitted through the emergency room,” says Dr. Villaplana. “If an ER patient does not have a primary care physician, then the emergency room doctor makes the request for a hospitalist.”

To reduce patient anxiety

about seeing an unfamiliar physician, Dr. Villaplana spends time with the patient, explaining his place in the patient's continuum of care and reassuring the patient that the primary care physician is aware of and involved in that care.

“Primary care doctors also have the absolute right to visit their patients in the hospital and provide us with information for directing their care,” adds Dr. Villaplana.

TCMA's hospitalist team, working with Town & Country and Memorial hospitals in Tampa, is taking a leadership role in bringing this new level of patient care to the Tampa Bay area.

“Hospitalists meet the challenge of combining quality and efficiency in the delivery of medical care to our community,” says Dr. Villaplana. “Total Care Management Associates is proud to have a skilled staff of physicians to assist our community's primary care doctors.”

FHCN—Billie S. Noakes



Jose A. Villaplana, MD, CHCQM, FAIHQ, is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Villaplana

completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Western Reserve Care Systems, Youngstown, OH, and is fluent in Spanish.



Carmen A. Coiscou, MD, is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Coiscou completed an internship and

residency in internal medicine at Woodhull Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, and is fluent in Spanish.



Soma SSK Jyothula, MD, completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at Hahnemann University hospital, Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Jyothula is fluent in Telugu and Hindi.

Total Care Management Associates, LLC

Jose A. Villaplana, MD, CHCQM, FAIHQ
Carmen A. Coiscou, MD
Soma SSK Jyothula, MD

Florida hospitalist program at Total Care Management Associates. “They must maintain office hours, seeing as many as 30-plus patients a day, and still find time to manage their hospitalized patients' care.”

On-site management of inpatient care with privileges at Town & Country and Memorial Hospitals

**Total Care Management Associates, LLC
4602 N. Armenia Ave., Suite B-6**

Physicians, please call (877) 624-3290 to schedule a TCMA hospitalist onto your patient's medical team.

Please visit TCMA on the Web at www.tcma-med.com.