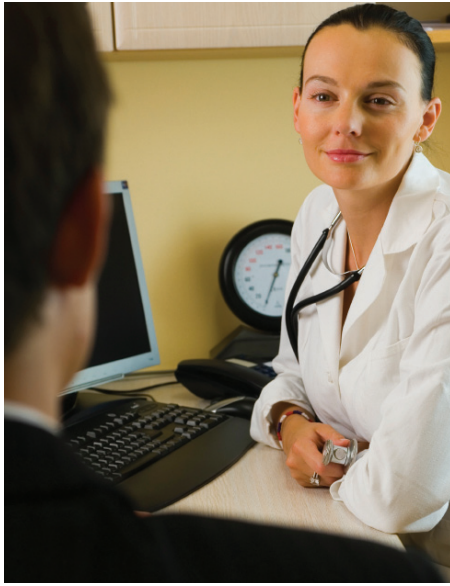


## Goes Live in the OPD and Twig Clinic



**T**he outpatient department (OPD) and Twig Clinic at Rochester General Hospital are going electronic with their prescriptions through the GRIPA Connect Portal.

"I'm thankful for GRIPA and their employees for their dedicated support to get us e-prescribing," says Laura Woodson, a physician assistant in the Twig Clinic. "Our renewal process is much faster, improves patient care, and is more efficient. The enthusiasm and energy of our nursing staff, especially Gabriel Fasino, is a key component of our success." Dr. Alefia Tapia adds, "I'm very optimistic that e-prescribing will reduce medication

errors and be particularly helpful for our residents."

Staff began the process of adopting electronic prescribing in mid 2009 and have sent over 2,000 prescriptions electronically as of the beginning of October. Meetings describing and mapping workflows led to a pilot of the e-prescribing program by teams comprised of a prescriber and nurse in each area. The practice manager for the OPD and Twig, Ron Purpura, commented, "The process of examining workflows made us realize the tremendous efficiency e-prescribing had to offer. With the assistance of GRIPA's Michael Van Ornum, we've been able to retool our existing processes for the better and move e-prescribing forward."

The feedback from the pilot teams quickly identified the medical records department as having a significant role in the process. When electronic renewal requests come into GRIPA Connect electronically, the medical records staff can immediately pull the chart and deliver it to the prescriber for authorization. Stacey Jones, the Health Information Management (HIM) supervisor, says, "We are excited about being involved in the process and it has really helped our ability to manage charts. The amount of time charts spend outside our department is

greatly reduced."

Residents are next to start using GRIPA Connect ePrescribing and many are pleasantly surprised by the wealth of clinical information in the portal available regarding their patients. Dr. Jarvis Sanchez-Rivera, a third year resident, commented, "I can make better decisions about medications I'm prescribing."

An article in the September issue of Archives of Internal Medicine underscores the value electronic prescribing has for patient safety. The investigators found that one adverse drug event was prevented for every 331 alerts that prompted a provider to change the prescription. If the results are extrapolated across all clinically integrated GRIPA ePrescribers each year, there would potentially be 36 adverse drug reactions prevented, including 12 life-threatening adverse reactions, and 1 permanent disability prevented.

The staff in the outpatient department and Twig Clinic demonstrate that the benefits of e-prescribing can be seen even in a challenging, fast-paced, teaching environment. To learn more about GRIPA Connect ePrescribing, a free service for GRIPA's clinically integrated providers, call Provider Relations at 585-922-1525.

### GRIPA Connect Portal

## Demonstration Projects Help Physicians Improve Communication and Quality of Care.

**T**he GRIPA Connect Portal is a tool available to assist you in managing the care of your patients. In order to continue to help our providers learn the benefits of this tool and what it has to offer, GRIPA has launched two Clinical Integration demonstration projects that 60 physicians currently are participating in.

The A1c Project involves using the portal to determine which of a physician's diabetic patients are overdue for an A1c test, so they can be contacted to get their labs done. The Colonoscopy Project uses the portal to document when a patient is due for their next colon cancer screening, so physicians using the portal will receive an alert

when the due date arrives and can remind patients when they are due.

We will keep you posted on our progress.