Promethazine Topical Gel
Promethazine is a phenothiazine derivative that is FDA approved for the symptomatic treatment of various allergic conditions and is also indicated as an antiemetic, sedative, and adjunct to postoperative analgesia and anesthesia. Although IV promethazine is considered non-formulary in adults, there has been significant use of this non-formulary medication in our system. IV promethazine may be associated with pain, tenderness at the IV site, burning, erythema, severe spasm of the vessels, nerve damage, thrombophlebitis, and tissue damage. In addition, other agents used as antiemetics on our formulary have had significant shortage issues in the past, and most recently price increases have occurred with some of the agents previously on shortage (e.g. prochlorperazine injection). For these reasons, in addition to low cost, promethazine transdermal (topical) gel was approved to be added to the MLH adult formulary.

Other Key Points:
- Dosing for Promethazine Gel: Apply 12.5-25 mg to wrist every 4-6 hours as needed for nausea and vomiting
- Supplied from: People’s Custom Rx as 25 mg/1 mL in unit dose syringes. For topical use only.
- Expiration date will be 6 months from the date produced by People’s Custom Rx.
- Monitoring: relief of symptoms, mental status

Tentative implementation date: November 11, 2014

Low Dose Ketamine for Pain Management
A medication use policy on the administration of low dose ketamine for pain management that is limited to prescribing by anesthesiologists at Methodist University and Methodist Germantown was approved. It is expected that about 10 patients per year will utilize low dose ketamine for pain management. Based on this policy, only an anesthesiologist will order, initiate, and manage patients with low-dose ketamine intravenous infusions in the following approved locations: PACU, Step Down, and ICU. Low dose ketamine will be limited to patients undergoing complex spine cases, total joint, orthopedic, or complex gastrointestinal surgery. A care set/Power Plan will be developed and approved by the P&T Committee before implementing this policy. The care set will include dose changes of ketamine, monitoring and assessment, and adjunctive therapies. Before implementation of this plan, nurses in the PACU, Step Down Unit, and ICU will be educated on the care set and appropriate monitoring.

More information on the implementation plan for this will be coming soon. Remember that the use of low dose ketamine for pain management will NOT be implemented until the care set/powerplan is approved by P&T and nursing education is complete.
Simethicone Product Standardization in Adults
In order to reduce the inventory of simethicone, the 125 mg oral capsules and 125 mg chewable oral tablets have been removed from the MLH adult formulary. These orders will be automatically interchanged by pharmacy to simethicone 80 mg chewable oral tablet using the same frequency.

*Implementation date: November 11, 2014*

**Approved Order Sets/Power Plans**

**Edited Order Sets/Power Plans**
- TRANS Liver Transplant Post Op Plan
- TRANS Liver/Kidney Transplant Post-Op Power Plan
- RAD Radiology Specials Contrast Plan
- ID Commonly Used Antibiotics Plan
- RENAL Tolvaptan and Conivaptan Plan

**New Order Sets/Power Plans**
- NEURO Sodium Support Plan
- CARD Outpatient Cath/PCI Hydration Protocol Plan

**Drug Shortages**
- IV Fluids and Irrigation solutions remain critical at Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare. Look for weekly updates posted on the front page of Methodist MD that describe the status of each IV fluid on shortage.
- The following shortages are no longer critical at Methodist, and thus CPOE shortage alerts have been removed: vecuronium and metronidazole injection.

**Miscellaneous**
- A scope of practice change was approved for the use of sedative drips in MECH.
- The amiodarone standard concentration has been converted from 500 mg/250 mL (2 mg/mL) to 450 mg/250 mL (1.8 mg/mL).
- The pharmacy department will be able to procure IV fluids from other countries as allowed by the FDA during the critical IV fluid shortage.
- Once the IV fluid shortage resolves, all pre-checks for IV fluids will be permanently removed from the Power Plans and Order Sets except for those currently pre-checked on the DKA plan and Sepsis Orders.
- List of 2014-15 MUEs were approved.
- A gastroparesis diet was approved.
- Prescribing guidelines for the use of subcutaneous unfractionated heparin for VTE treatment in adults were approved.
- The following edited policies were approved:
  - Home Medications, Illicit Drugs, and Alcohol Brought into Hospital by Patient
  - Medication Related Devices brought from Home

Next P&T meeting is Thursday, November 6th, Noon to 1 PM

Meeting locations:
University: 1 Thomas Auditorium
Germantown: Pavilion Classroom 1
North: Meeting Room 1
South: Conference Room B
Olive Branch: Main Conference Room 1220

Upcoming P&T Agenda Items:
Formulary reviews: Aclidinium bromide, Linaclotide, COPD/asthma products review