

May 1: COVID-19 Clinical Update

On the Front Lines at Kishwaukee Hospital

This daily communication is intended to facilitate the sharing of important clinical information during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis and to help respond to questions from physicians across Northwestern Medicine.

Today's issue includes an interview with Hospitalist Ikechukwu Chineme, MD, about how he and his team at Kishwaukee Hospital are managing the COVID-19 crisis.

ON THE FRONT LINES WITH KISHWAUKEE HOSPITALIST IKECHUKWU I. CHINEME, MD

Q: How are you and other hospitalists managing the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: As a physician leader, I find daily leadership meetings invaluable to learn important updates and guidance that I disseminate to my team. Also, we formed a dedicated, multidisciplinary team with members from Hospital Medicine, Infectious Disease and Critical Care to better manage COVID-19 patients together. We conduct daily rounds with nurses and pharmacists where we review the status of each patient, and adjust their care plan according to improving or worsening conditions.

Q: Is there anything you've been surprised to learn from working during this pandemic?

A: There was a lot of anxiety at the onset of the pandemic when the situation changed so frequently and rapidly, but I have been pleasantly surprised by the way the entire hospital staff has risen to the challenge. The level of preparation, teamwork and follow-up to make sure everyone is aware of current care guidelines through daily huddles and other briefings is impressive.

Also, I have been amazed by the medical staff's courage and determination to care for our patients, and I want to acknowledge the outstanding support we've received from Kishwaukee Hospital and NM leadership.

Q: What advice would you give to other hospitalists right now?

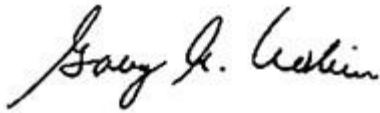
A: We expect to see care guidelines for COVID-19 patients continue to change as new information becomes available. My best advice is stay up-to-date and use informed clinical judgment. Visit [NMI](#) and [Physician Forum](#) to find important, frequently updated information. And, stay safe by taking time to [properly don PPE](#) prior to patient encounters.

In my opinion, the best approach to care is one that is collaborative and multidisciplinary. I appreciate the perspective that my colleagues in Infectious Disease, Critical Care and Nursing offer to provide optimal care. Also, though critical to reducing the transmission of the virus, visitor restrictions can be hard for patients and their families. Take time to communicate with the families to keep them connected.

Q: How are you and the team relieving stress?

A: We try to maintain our culture of having lunch together (staying appropriately distanced) to share successes, observations and concerns — and just to talk. We also try to maintain social relationships with family and friends through video chat and other virtual platforms.

Thank you for your extraordinary dedication and collaboration in providing exceptional care to our patients and supporting one another during this unprecedented crisis. If you have questions or would like to share the story of an NM hero, please email us at covid-19md@nm.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary A. Noskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Noskin".

Gary A. Noskin, MD
Senior Vice President, Quality
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Chief Medical Officer
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