Dear Champion,

This next letter will focus on education: yours and the education you will provide or coordinate for your peers. New knowledge is changing and evolving continuously. In order to keep up with the latest information and best practices, we need to intentionally seek to educate ourselves and others, and to learn and grow in our profession.

The goal of education is to identify learning needs and meet those needs through a variety of learning methods. The education you provide should come from credible sources that are based on the latest research. Credible information comes from peer-reviewed journals and education developed from practice guidelines, which can be found under the Professional Society Guidelines page. The guidelines are revised periodically based on new research from a body of evidence that can be replicated by independent researchers in a variety of clinical settings.

There are many topics that would be beneficial for you to provide, and they do not have to be difficult or elaborate in order to meet the need. The following are resources you may want to consider:

- Ask a hospital librarian to search for articles on a particular topic or a co-worker who is enrolled in school with access to databases.
- If you are a SGNA member, search for articles on the SGNA journal site (login on the SGNA homepage, click on Learn, then Journal, then the “Gastroenterology Nursing” button. You can search for articles by entering a key word in the top left field).
- Develop a slide presentation and/or present a topic at a staff meeting. Evaluate learning by assigning a short quiz or observing the learners following the new information. For example, educate on hand washing, personal protective equipment (PPE) or isolation processes and observe a pre-determined number of staff members complying with the education provided. This is called auditing. A sample audit tool can be found on the Become a Champion page once logged in.
- Assign an article on an infection prevention topic or an infection prevention practice guideline and have your peers complete the Article Review Form found on the Become a Champion page. The article review forms should be turned in to the Champion for review.
• Contact your vendors and ask if they have topics on infection control or endoscope handling that they could present. Sometimes they are able to award contact hours as well.
• Research available web-based education sites for infection prevention content.
• Contact your infection prevention specialist and ask if they have any topics they can present or provide on a particular infection prevention topic.

For all educational activities that you or your peers engage in, keep track of how many minutes it takes to complete the activity. Count this time toward fulfilling the 120-minute requirement for your unit and/or the 180-minute requirement for yourself. You may track this on the Continuing Education form.

Once you have decided on the topic and determined how the information will be delivered, complete the Provider Directed Activity Documentation form. The evaluation tool should be individualized and given to staff to complete and return to you after the education/activity is offered. This will help you improve the educational content and delivery for next time. This paperwork is for you and should be completed for one educational activity. A sample outline is available to assist you.

A new addition to the Champions program is the requirement of completing the GI Endoscopy Clinical Effectiveness Assessment. This assessment will help you to evaluate the needs of your unit. This survey will help you to ensure best practices are being followed by completing an evaluation of your unit. Upon completion you will be able to develop a clear plan for improvement. The information about this survey will be emailed to you in a separate email so please keep an eye out for this.

In the course of evaluating learning with the tools provided, you may be able to identify learning or process deficits which could be developed into a department goal. For example, if staff members are having difficulty distinguishing between dirty and clean, or if you discover that you should be drying or hanging the endoscopes differently, you could develop and implement a process to fix the situation. That could be written as a goal. Goal development will be addressed in a future letter.

Requirements should either be emailed to Champions@sgna.org or faxed to 312-673-6694 as due. The following are the assignments for the next two weeks:

1. Complete GI Endoscopy Clinical Effectiveness Assessment which has been emailed to you separately (Due February 28).
2. Complete the Unit Needs Assessment.
4. Explore Infection Prevention Topics for continuing education on the Become a Champion page.

As always, SGNA is available for any questions or difficulties you may have.

Sincerely,
The SGNA Infection Prevention Work Group