

Featured Interview

Jennifer Chapman, RN and
Lisa Jones, RN, WESTLAKE MEDICAL

Tell us about your background?

“We are both RN’s with cardiac backgrounds. Lisa received her degree from North Central Michigan College and moved to Texas in 2000. We met that year when we worked in the hospital on a telemetry floor. The hospital has a specialized unit which takes care of patients after they have heart catheterizations. This is where we both realized how much we like cardiology nursing. Lisa started working for Dr. DeMaio in 2002 and Jennifer followed her in 2003. Jennifer is a native Texan and received her degree from Texas A&M Corpus Christi. I have been a nurse for 9 years and Lisa 7 years.

We both serve as Dr. DeMaio’s office nurse as well as the research coordinators for our group. So we are responsible for assisting with his clinic and in the hospital as well. Jennifer is the primary research coordinator and Lisa is Dr. Demaio’s primary nurse. Jennifer takes care of the day to day research duties and Lisa helps with screening patients, consenting, and is in the cath lab with Dr. DeMaio when we are enrolling patients. We participate only in device trials. We currently have 2 enrolling studies and 10 more in various stages of follow-up. We manage a little more than 200 patients in these studies.

Capital Cardiovascular Specialists is made up of 5 cardiologists who each have their own specialties, whether it be nuclear medicine, CT angiography, or interventional cardiology. Dr. DeMaio is the PI for all of the research studies that we do and the other physicians serve as sub-investigators in most studies. Dr. DeMaio’s speciality is interventional cardiology and he does around 2000 interventions a year.”

How has your site managed to enroll your lead-ins in a timely manner?

Jen: “We have a large referring physician population in Austin. Dr. DeMaio also does dinner talks for referring physicians and speaks about carotid stenting.”

Lisa: “Continuous screening by referring physicians.”

How do you ensure compliance with protocol at your site?

Jen: “Having one primary investigator helps with protocol compliance. Also, as research

coordinators we try to stay very organized and use check lists and original source documents to ensure we are adhering to the protocol.

Communication is also key. Dr. DeMaio, Lisa, and I have a great working relationship.”

Lisa: “Lots of check lists and staying organized!”

How do you flag study patients coming in for follow-up visits?

“We have a research calendar that can be accessed by all of the research staff. We document who is coming in when on this calendar. We also have electronic charting. Every patient chart has a research section that can be filled out when they are enrolled into a study. Once this section is filled out, pertinent information defaults onto the patient’s clipboard and alerts all staff that enters into their chart that they are a research participant, what study they are in, their enrollment date, and how long the study lasts. We find that staying in touch with study participant helps with follow-up compliance. We send out letters to patients to remind them of their follow-up appointments even if that appointment is a yearly phone call. In the letter we say hello, thank them for their participation, and let them know when to expect our call.”

Notes are attached to the computerized office chart as well as Excel spread sheet.”

What is the single most important thing to remember when managing your workload in addition to enrolling in ACT1?

Jen: “Don’t procrastinate; prioritize, and stay organized!”

Lisa: “Taking care of requested items as soon as they come across your desk or by priority status instead of procrastinating.”

We couldn’t have said it better! Thank you to Jennifer and Lisa!