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UPDATE

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Update

No. 22 January 13, 1975

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COORDINATED ADMISSIONS PROGRAM APPROVED

THE CONCEPT of Coordinated Admissions has been considered an essential element of the three-hospital system from the outset of planning and was, in fact, a provision of the Settlement Agreement under which the system operates. The program's contributions are two-fold: (1) to assure maximum utilization of available facilities and (2) to assure the financial viability of each of our three hospitals.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 15, the Coordinated Admissions Program recently approved and adopted by the governing boards of the three hospitals becomes operative. Simply stated, the program unanimously adopted requires physicians, or their representatives, wishing to schedule an admission to the three-hospital complex to call the Coordinated Admissions Office and request a bed in the hospital of his choice, consistent with the service allocations. Arrangements will be handled via a conference call with the Coordinated Admissions Officer, the physician, the Admitting Officer of the hospital concerned and, if surgery is planned, with the O.R. Supervisor at that hospital. Under usual circumstances, the patient will be booked in the hospital of the doctor's and/or the patient's choice. Priority will also be given to physicians to admit to the hospital of their primary affiliation. However, when one hospital has a census lower than the agreed-upon level and the patient can be adequately cared for in that hospital, the Coordinated Admissions Officer will arrange for the patient to be admitted to the hospital with the low census. That's the key to achieving the two-fold objectives. Dr. John H. Morey, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, will explain the program in detail to the Lehigh County Medical Society at its meeting on Tuesday, January 14.

MRS. MILDRED A. WHITMORE, R.N., a nurse with in-depth administrative experience, has been named Coordinated Admissions Officer. She served as Patient Care Coordinator at Lauderdale Lakes (Florida) General Hospital and was Head Nurse in a 50-bed Pediatrics Unit at Wyandotte (Michigan) General Hospital for five years. A former staff nurse at Valley Forge Army Hospital, she is a graduate of St. Agnes Hospital School of Nursing. At the Hospital Center, she has been serving as the Head Nurse on Unit 5A, and will be replaced by Mrs. Jane Parry, who will be "Acting" Head Nurse.

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BED-OPENING SCHEDULE CHANGED

IN THE INTEREST OF FUEL CONSERVATION, Patient Care Wing 4B was partially opened with 10 beds, on January 13. The full unit of 34 beds will be opened by January 19, for Cardiology and General Medical patients in the Allentown Section. The schedule originally called for Wing 7A to be opened next, but it was determined that the fourth floor unit is on the same overall zone as 4A and 4C; thus, is already being heated. It is planned to open 5B for Urology in the fall of 1975. At that time, 7C will be converted to Sacred Heart Neurosurgery and General Surgery. Miss Mabel Mantz, R.N. will be the Head Nurse in the new unit, which will bring the total number of beds opened to 321 as of that date. Mrs. Christine Faller, R.N. will replace Miss Mantz as Head Nurse on Wing 3B.

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DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

FIVE RUSSIAN PHYSICIANS, including the President of the Moscow Medical Institute, will tour the Hospital Center on Saturday, January 18. Dr. Clifford G. Vernick, President of the medical staff, and other staff members will host the visitors at a luncheon following their tour.

SNOWSTORM PARKING POLICIES

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SNOW REMOVAL in the Hospital Center's parking areas will cause certain problems during snowstorms. In order to minimize those problems, these policies will automatically become effective at the outset of any snowfall:

The employee parking lot to the north of the hospital building will be divided into two 340-space parking areas. The 340 spaces closest to the hospital building (encompassing three single lines of parking) will be utilized for parking, leaving the 340 spaces closest to Route 309 free to permit snow removal. The spaces in which parking is prohibited will be marked off with orange traffic cones. At the change of the next shift, the parking areas will be reversed in order to permit snow removal in the other half of the lot. This reversal of one-half the parking lot will continue with each shift change.

The doctors' parking area to the east of the Emergency Entrance and the emergency parking lot will be handled in a similar manner, with parking available alternately from the east to the west sides with each shift change. Strict compliance with this policy should be observed in order to assure the availability of clean and useable parking spaces.

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VOLUNTEERS

WHEREVER THERE IS A NEED in the hospital is where the Volunteers are happy to serve. If you have a specific job that can be done by a volunteer, please call the Director of Volunteer Services at Extension 3123. Permanent assignments will be made in the near future, and Orientation Programs for new volunteers have been scheduled for Monday, January 13, from 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., for Thursday, January 16, at 1:00 P.M. and for Friday, January 17, also at 1:00 P.M.

DURING DECEMBER, 133 volunteers donated 1,908 hours of service to aid the Hospital Center. We are indebted to the Girl Scouts of St. Thomas More for making the lovely tray favors for Christmas Day, and the Emmaus Garden Club whose members began caring for patients' plants and flowers on January 6. Mrs. William Bartholomew is Chairman, and the ladies are here to help every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

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SUGGESTIONS...

ARE ALWAYS WELCOME and every effort is made to incorporate good ideas into hospital policy. In response to employee requests, for example, the Cafeteria has added a daily "special" to the luncheon menu. Others, however, have asked for the acquisition of a cigarette machine for use by employees only. It is felt that such a move would be inconsistent with the goals of a modern health-care facility such as ours.

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LETTERS...

ARE ALSO WELCOME from patients and friends. And we get them! Parents of a young boy injured in an auto accident wrote us "Bricks and mortar make the building that house the Center attractive. But more important are the people that convey medical services to us...attention was prompt, efficient, and compassionate. I'm sure your presence in the community will be felt and appreciated with a competent, qualified staff that works as well as yours did in my emergency." And a former patient wrote "The courtesies extended to me by nurses, doctors and residents were outstanding. If all the employees are of the same caliber, I extend to you my heartiest congratulations."