



## Your Safety Means Everything at LVHN

*On June 30, an LVHN colleague was assaulted while working in LVH–Muhlenberg's emergency department. The colleague is recovering from his injuries. It was an isolated incident, and the Bethlehem Police have arrested the suspect. This incident represents the types of events that can and sometimes do occur at any of our facilities in the health network. In light of this, LVHN Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Terry Capuano offers this special "Terry's Take" with an important message to all colleagues.*

On behalf of LVHN, I'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to the entire staff at the LVH–Muhlenberg ED – including physicians, clinical staff, psychiatric evaluation service, public safety, emergency management, leadership ... and countless other colleagues who came to offer their support – for their quick response and intervention in this unfortunate situation.

I want every colleague to be assured that the safety of each LVHN employee, patient and visitor is the primary concern

at all times for all of us at our network. We seem to live in a time where the unthinkable occurs more often around the world than we could ever expect. Please remember we are family here at LVHN. Health care is more than a job. We are committed to our patients and to each other.

Since this incident occurred, many suggestions have been brought to our attention by concerned colleagues, and we appreciate their feedback. We will review all suggestions in our efforts to enact short- and long-term changes that will enhance the security standards at all of our EDs.

I can tell you additional security will be patrolling the Muhlenberg campus throughout this week and beyond. But we also ask for your help in our efforts to prevent the unthinkable. If at any time you encounter something or someone who is concerning or suspicious, please report it directly to our security departments or, if needed, our switchboard operators who can notify security officers on either

campus immediately. Don't hesitate. The safety of our colleagues, patients and visitors may depend on it.

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**I ask every colleague to maintain "situational awareness," which means simply knowing what is happening around you.**

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For example, when entering a locked, secure area, make sure no one is walking in right behind you. It's one of those things that you may not give a second thought during the course of a busy work shift. We're human. But all of us need to make the effort, to try to give it that second thought. Again, you may make a real difference.

You all do wonderful work every day, and we value every person that wears an LVHN badge. We're here for you and we know you are here for our community. As always, thank you for all you do for LVHN.



*Terry Ann Capuano*

**About me:** My name is Terry Capuano, RN and I am the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). I have worked at LVHN for 30 years serving as COO for the last five years. I greatly enjoy meeting colleagues, sharing stories and enhancing relationships throughout the network.

# Getting on the Same Pay Cycle

**The pay cycle change announced last month for colleagues begins July 10, 2017.** This change will ensure the pay cycle for these colleagues aligns with the pay cycle at LVH Schuylkill–E. Norwegian Street and LVHN.

LVH–Schuylkill and the health network have been evaluating how the operational efficiencies, processes and systems currently in place at both LVH–Schuylkill campuses align with each other and with LVHN.

The LVH–Schuylkill campuses have been on opposite week pay cycles forever. The alignment into a common cycle will bring consistency of payroll dates for both campuses and will match LVHN's pay cycle. A common pay cycle creates operational efficiencies and makes it easier for managers to schedule colleagues in a consistent manner.

The table below demonstrates how this alignment will impact colleagues at LVH–Schuylkill S. Jackson Street.

Pay Period	Pay Date	Impact
June 26-July 9	July 13	No change
July 10-15	July 20	6 day transitional pay period
July 16-July 29	Aug. 3	Common cycle, full pay

*We have been committed to making this move as seamless as possible. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding as we position LVH–Schuylkill for a successful future that will benefit our colleagues, patients and community.*



# Having a Wheelchair When You Need One

**It's a question you hear from time to time at many health care facilities. "Why don't we have enough wheelchairs to get patients where they need to go?"**

Vice President of Operation Gabriel Kamarousky, MBA, says a more appropriate question is: Why aren't wheelchairs in the places we need them, when we need them? Kamarousky notes that our hospitals should have enough wheelchairs, but we're working to make sure they are in the best places for use by our patients.

LVH–Schuylkill began the first phase of an initiative to better control wheelchair inventory and reduce delays in movement of patients throughout our facilities. Additional phases will be added in the coming months. "Our goal is to improve the overall experience for patients, guests and colleagues," Kamarousky says.

The program design is rather simple so far. PAR levels (the number of wheelchairs needed for a particular area) have been

established for various units, points of entry and departments where wheelchairs are used. Signs showing PAR levels have been posted in each area. Clinical colleagues, particularly transport staff, nursing aides, therapists and even hospital volunteers have been encouraged to look at these portals of entry to ensure wheelchairs are available. If they notice too many wheelchairs in an area, they're can move them to another area.

"Our teams are seeing some success and working hard to overcome challenges," says Susan Curry, MSN, Vice President Patient Care Services. "We'll be re-grouping in the next several weeks to explore other actions we can take to make this better."

Currently, PAR levels of both traditional and STAXI chairs have been set for Stine acute rehab, senior behavioral health, emergency room, main entrance, 6 north, 5 north, critical care, diagnostic imaging and garage entrances. We hope to have a more permanent program in place by the end of July.

## Free Community Lectures

**LVHN Rehabilitation Center–Schuylkill’s monthly lecture series is in high gear with two-community education programs scheduled in the next few weeks.**

On Tuesday, July 18, at noon, the center will host a free community lecture titled “Recreational Accessibility in and around Schuylkill County.” Jennifer Evans and Heather Estes of the rehabilitation team will lead the program. They’ll present information about resources available in the county that make it possible for people with disabilities to participate in activities including hiking, hunting, skiing, biking and more. This program is open to anyone with an interest, but is idea for social workers, case managers, church staff and facility activities directors.

On Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m., Physical Therapist Ron Feraro and a member of our athletic trainer’s team will host a program called “Safety Tips for Fall Athletes: Heat and Concussion Awareness.” Dangers associated with heat and concussion become more prevalent as athletes train and teams practice this summer to prepare for the fall sports season.

Both educational programs are free and are part of the center’s Community Lecture Series. Registration is not required.

LVHN Rehabilitation Center–Schuylkill also provides a Concussion Management program, sports medicine and an extensive menu of other therapeutic and rehabilitative services. The center is the only outpatient facility in our region to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. To learn more, visit [LVHN.org/rehabschuylkill](http://LVHN.org/rehabschuylkill) or call 570-621-9500.



## Visit Point Pleasant on Aug. 19

**Enjoy some fun in the sun with LVHN colleagues at the surf, sand and boardwalk of Point Pleasant, N.J. on Saturday, Aug. 19.** The bus will leave from the water tower at LVH–Cedar Crest at 8 a.m. and arrive at Point Pleasant at 10:15 a.m.

Jenkinson’s Beach is open daily, weather permitting, with lifeguards on duty from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Daily beach badges are available at the beach gates.

- Adults 12 and older: \$10
- Children 5-11: \$2.50
- Children under 5 with an adult: Free
- Beach umbrellas: \$10
- Beach chairs: \$6

Jenkinson’s Boardwalk has a wide variety of family entertainment, including an aquarium, amusement park, arcades, mini-golf, batting cages and several eating establishments.

The bus departs Point Pleasant at 6:30 p.m. and arrives at LVH–Cedar Crest at 8:45 p.m. Price: \$30 per person *Beach prices are not included with the price of the trip.*

**For a registration for, contact Brandi\_M.Haja@lvhn.org or call 610-751-8580.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *Free Community Lecture*

#### **Recreational Accessibility in and Around Schuylkill County**

Tuesday, July 18, 12-1 p.m.  
LVHN Rehabilitation Center–Schuylkill, 300 Schuylkill Medical Plaza  
570-621-9500

### *Free Community Lecture*

#### **“Safety Tips for Fall Athletes: Heat and Concussion Awareness”**

LVHN Rehab Center–Schuylkill  
Wednesday, Aug. 2, 6 p.m.

### *Free Information Session*

#### **EMT Training in Schuylkill County by Lehigh County Community College**

Aug. 8 and 15  
Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing  
450 Washington Street, Pottsville

#### **LVH–Schuylkill Golf League 9 Hole League**

Thursdays at Hidden Valley Golf Course  
Call 570-739-4455 for details.