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UPDATE

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LABORATORY SERVICES CENTRALIZED

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD, marked an advance in the overall quality of service to our community by the initiation of another example of hospital cooperation. The Microbiology Department of Allentown Hospital was integrated within the laboratory of the Hospital Center. This transfer of laboratory services was agreed upon by the administrators of the two hospitals and will be complete when the second phase of integration, centralization of Serology, will take place at Allentown Hospital on May 1.

John J. Shane, M.D., Chief of Pathology, explains that the areas microbiology capability has been broadened considerably by "a unique combination of expertise and instrumentation."

The key to the speed up of this process is new instrumentation. On February 28th an automated Bactec 225 radiometric device was installed in the Hospital Center. This new \$35,000 system is used primarily for blood culturing and with it what previously had been a four day process, is reduced to 36 hours from the time a specimen is submitted. Tests have shown that the Bactec machine is faster than routine cultures, and has a very high detection efficiency. In addition to blood cultures, the Bactec can also be used for culturing spinal fluids, pleural fluids, peritoneal fluids and joint fluids.

Dr. Shane emphasizes the importance of having personnel within the department who know how to use the Bactec equipment. Dr. John Salventi was involved in the development of this device and with the expansion of the microbiology facilities. Four members of the Allentown Hospital laboratory staff were transferred to the Center. The new transfers are Judith Yost, Anne Lauchnor, Sherry Diener and Ivy Lee.

Commenting further on the advantages of this collective effort between the hospitals, Dr. Shane points out that the laboratory is now averaging 124 new specimens per day and adds that that is twice the volume reported by the laboratory at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

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EKG COURSE

DR. NORMAN S. SARACHEK, Director of Coronary Care Unit at the Center, is conducting an EKG Reading Course. The program began in mid-February and will continue until April 24th.

Dr. Sarachek reports 35 persons in attendance at his initial session made up mainly of nursing staff and including house staff and one general practitioner.

Dr. Sarachek is enthused with the apparent success and the good reception his course has had. He indicates that if this is an example of the interest in this kind of course, he is considering making a synchronized sound-slide program that will allow self-study for the ten hour program.

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SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS. Payday will be moved ahead one day because of the Good Friday holiday. Checks can be picked up on Wednesday and Thursday at the usual times. Beginning with the March 27th pay, employees picking up their checks need only show their ID cards

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and not have to sign their names. However, if you are picking up someone else's check, you will have to sign for it.

AND THE BAD NEWS . . . The tax man is after us again and the \$10 Occupational Privilege Tax for 1975 will be deducted from the March 27th check. If you've previously paid this tax for this year, bring your receipt to the Payroll Office by March 24th so the deduction is not duplicated.

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REMINDER

ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMISSIONS, the number to call for the fastest, most efficient service is 3140. That's the Coordinated Admissions Office for our three joint venture hospitals.

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NEW TIMES

SOME CHANGES in hours has taken effect in the Cafeteria. The closing time has been changed to 9 p.m. every day. On Sundays, the employee coffee break period will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. coffee break prevails Monday through Saturday.

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FOR SNACKERS

MIDNIGHT MUNCHERS and between meal snackers will be happy to notice the new food vending machines located in the first floor service elevator lobby.

A cold beverage machine and a sandwich and snack dispensing machine can provide a quick cure for the "growls" at those times when the Cafeteria is not open. A microwave oven is also available to warm up sandwiches.

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ESCORT EDUCATION

HOSPITAL CENTER ESCORTS recently completed a four week course of instruction on the proper techniques for patient transporting. Included was instruction in basic transportation skills, communication skills, familiarization with equipment encountered in their work, as well as a basic knowledge of the work performed by various departments of the hospital to which they transport patients.

Ralph Bragg, Keith Hassler, Sterling Woodin, and Paul Schoellkopf from Escort Services; James Fallon and Thomas Keating from the X-Ray Department; and Dwight Bitting from the Emergency Room successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates by the Training Office.

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LIKE THIS ONE from Roy Snyder of Coopersburg, Pa.

I just returned home from a recent 7-day stay at the new hospital. I had been hesitant to try the new hospital because of some adverse things I heard about it. Talking it over with Dr. Shane for whom I did some work, I decided to give the new hospital a try. I was not the least bit sorry. Everybody was so nice and accommodating. The accommodations very great, the food was very good. To check for myself, I asked several nurses where they worked before and how they liked working here. They all said they enjoyed working at the new hospital and thought the place was great. I will recommend the new hospital to the highest and want to thank you for doing a fine job setting up a fine hospital against great odds.

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YOUR NEWSLETTER

THE UPDATE is intended to be the voice of all departments of the Hospital Center. Its success depends on your cooperation and efforts at providing the news information about your department.

If you would like information about your department or personnel publicized in the Update, provide either a written copy of the article or contact the Training Office for editorial assistance. We need everyone's help to make "everyone's" Update a success.