

FOCUS

The Quarterly Newsletter for Physician Office Staff

Route to:

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In This Issue . . .

News from Medical
Staff Services
Page 2

Medicare Covers More
Preventive Services
Page 2

Cardiac Rehab
Relocates
Page 2

Immunization
Recommendation for
Health Care Workers
Page 3

Smoking and Your
Patients
Page 4

Who's New
Page 4

PAHCOM News
Page 4

LVH Medical Staff Reappointment

In compliance with the regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Medical Staff and Hospital Bylaws, and the standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, each member of the hospital's Medical Staff must be reappointed a minimum of once every two years.

On March 2, this year's reappointment process will be put into motion when the Reappointment Packets will be mailed to over 700 members of the Medical Staff. Each packet will contain a six-page Application for Reappointment to the Medical Staff, a copy of the addressee's current privilege sheet, an insurance information sheet, a self-addressed return envelope, and to simplify the process, a Checklist has been included to assist in completing the information.

Although much of the information on the application is preprinted, it is of paramount importance that you review ALL the information, make changes where necessary, and complete any missing data. Before returning the application, please take a moment to review the Checklist to make sure all the information is complete and all the required documents have been attached to the application.

If you have any questions regarding the reappointment process, please contact Karen Fox in Medical Staff Services at 402-8957.

The Reappointment Process is a monumental task for everyone involved; however, with your assistance, it can become much more manageable. THANK YOU for your anticipated assistance with the upcoming Reappointment Process.

Support Group Now Available for Elderly Amputees and Their Families

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month in Classroom 1 in the Anderson Wing of Lehigh Valley Hospital (Cedar Crest & I-78), from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 23. The topic of discussion will be "Physical Therapy."

For more information, contact Pat Matula, RN, Outcomes Coordinator, at 402-1733.

News from Medical Staff Services

Welcome Aboard . . .

Welcome wishes are extended to **Kathy L. Wise, CMSC**, who recently joined the department as Medical Staff Coordinator. In her position, Kathy will be coordinating centralized credentialing opportunities for PennCARE and will also be involved with LVH issues such as Medical Staff Development and Bylaws. Kathy comes to Medical Staff Services from Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital where she was Medical Staff Coordinator since 1990. Kathy's office is located in Medical Staff Services on the first floor of the hospital near the Medical Staff Lounge. She is available by telephone through 402-8900.

Diane Zapach recently joined the Physician Relations Department as a Physician Relations Representative. Prior to joining Physician Relations, Diane served as Director of Development, Burn Prevention Foundation, for Lehigh Valley Hospital since 1993, and previously as Director of Capital Development, Lehigh Valley Hospital Trust Fund, from 1991 to 1993. Prior to joining Lehigh Valley Hospital, Diane was Coordinator of Marketing and Physician Relations for Muhlenberg Hospital Center from 1981 to 1991. Diane is available by telephone through 402-9192.

Best Wishes . . .

A fond farewell to **Bess Ehnot**, Medical Staff Receptionist since October, 1988, who recently left Medical Staff Services. Bess has accepted a part-time position with the office of Peter F. Rovito, MD, general surgeon.

Medicare Covers More Preventive Services

In a recent memo from the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, big changes in Medicare this year reflect a new emphasis on preventive health. As of January 1, 1998, the program covers screening mammograms (for breast cancer) every year, versus every two years, in women over 40. Medicare also covers pap smears and pelvic exams once a year for women at high risk for disease and every third year for others. Colorectal cancer screenings are covered for the first time for Medicare beneficiaries over age 50.

Starting July 1, the program will cover bone-density tests for women at high risk of developing osteoporosis. In addition, prostate cancer screenings for men over 55 will be covered beginning January 1, 2000.

Cardiac Rehab Relocates

On January 19, the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department relocated to 1243 S. Cedar Crest Boulevard, Lower Level. The new telephone number is (610) 402-5915; the new fax number is (610) 402-5917.

The new location provides larger exercise floor space, educational consult rooms, body composition and screening room, plus improved locker rooms.

The department continues to offer Phase I inpatient cardiac rehab for both medical and surgical patients, Phase II monitored outpatient services for up to 12 weeks, and Phase III unmonitored maintenance outpatient services for up to 12 months.

Please feel free to visit the new facility at any time.

Immunization Recommendation for Health Care Workers

Because of their contact with patients or infective material from patients, many health care workers (including physicians, nurses, dental staff, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, administrative staff, etc.) are at risk for exposure to, and possible transmission of, vaccine preventable diseases. Optimal use of immunizing agents will safeguard the health of workers and protect patients from becoming infected. A program requiring immunizations of health care workers could eliminate the problem of having susceptible health care workers in hospitals and health departments and the attendant risks to other workers and patients.

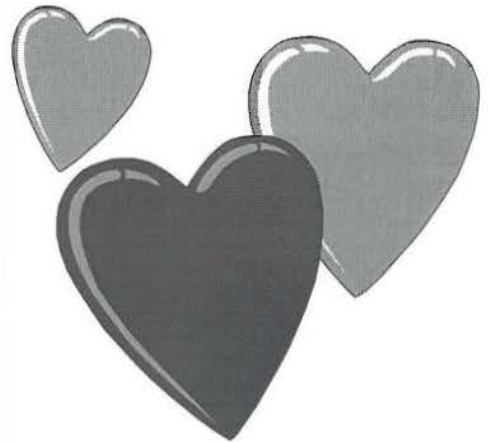
Health care facility staff born in 1957 or later with direct patient contact (even casual) should be required to document receipt of the following immunizations.

- Measles - Two doses of measles vaccine (preferably MMR) received on or after the first birthday (in 1968 or later) or laboratory evidence of immunity. In addition, receipt of one dose of MMR is strongly recommended for medical staff born before 1957.
- Rubella - One dose of rubella vaccine on or after the first birthday or laboratory evidence of immunity.
- Mumps - One dose of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday or documented history of mumps disease.

- Hepatitis B - Three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine for all medical and other support personnel who may have contact with blood or body products or laboratory evidence of immunity.
- Td - Completion of a primary series of Td and a vaccine booster dose every 10 years.
- Influenza - Annual vaccination with current influenza vaccine (either whole or splits virus).
- Varicella - Two properly spaced doses of varicella vaccine or laboratory evidence of immunity or a reliable history of varicella.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease, Division of Immunization, August 1997.

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Fry in Infection Control at 402-0680.



Smoking and Your Patients ... Did You Know?

Studies indicate that patients have a greater rate of success in quitting smoking and remaining abstinent after one year when their physician takes a role in advising and assisting them to quit.

Training is available for your physician(s) and your staff to help in assisting your patients to stop smoking. "How to Help Your Patients Stop Smoking" is a step-by-step guide developed by the National Cancer Institute. The guide employs a team approach to make maximum use of your time, and includes training your office staff for additional support and follow-up. The training can be done in one hour and is available at no charge.

For more information, contact the Coalition For a Smoke-Free Valley at 402-7460.

Who's New

Peggy Bennett-Elmore
Practice Manager
Valley OB-GYN Associates Ltd.
322 S. 17th Street
Allentown, PA 18104-6734
(610) 434-4015
Fax: (610) 435-4821

Brenda Lehr
Office Manager
LVPG-Hematology/Medical Oncology
1240 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Suite 114
Allentown, PA 18103-6218
(610) 402-0630
Fax: (610) 402-0644

PAHCOM News

Annual Conference

"View the Changes in Health Care from Spectacular Pike's Peak," the 10th Annual PAHCOM Conference, will be held May 6 to 9, at the Sheraton Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo. For additional information, call 1-800-451-9311 or contact the PAHCOM Web Site at www.pahcom.com.

New Officers

Joan Rissmiller - President
Skie Kramp - President-elect
Pamela Kametz - Secretary
Beverly Haas - Treasurer
Anita Jones - Membership

Upcoming Meetings

February 17 - 5:30 p.m., Ambassador Restaurant, 3750 Hamilton Boulevard
Topic - OSHA (Office nurses are welcome to attend)

March - No regular meeting
March 25 - 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Open House, Vendor Fair & Speakers
The Gateway Conference Center
Holiday Inn - Routes 22 & 512
Bethlehem, Pa.
Opening Speaker - Elaine Lundberg, M.A.
Humor Therapist
Afternoon Speaker - Dale Carnegie
symposium

April 21 - 5:30 p.m., Ambassador Restaurant - Guest speaker pending

LEHIGH VALLEY
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Cedar Crest & I-78
P.O. Box 689
Allentown, PA 18105-1556

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FOCUS is published quarterly for the office staffs of physicians on the Medical Staff of Lehigh Valley Hospital. Articles for the next issue should be submitted by April 3, 1998, to Janet M. Seifert, Medical Staff Services, Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest & I-78, P.O. Box 689, Allentown, PA 18105-1556. For more information, please call Janet at 402-8590.