

LVH-Schuylkill Supports United Way

LVH-Schuylkill is again pleased to support the efforts of the Schuylkill United Way. The United Way recently kicked off its 2018 campaign with a goal of \$1.1 million.

"We are hoping all LVH-Schuylkill colleagues consider supporting this year's United Way effort," says LVH-Schuylkill President Bill Reppy. "For many years, our colleagues have been very generous to the Schuylkill United Way as they raise funds to support 14 local agencies. Many of the programs and services provided by these agencies might not be available if not for the support of the United Way."



WHERE SHOULD I SEND MY COMPLETED PLEDGE CARD?

Return completed pledge cards to your supervisor, department manager or the finance department to the attention of Deb Kelly. Make sure to fill out the stub or stubs included with your pledge card so you are properly entered for the drawing.

Direct donations are accepted. You also can choose the more popular payroll deduction in which you can donate a certain amount each pay cycle. Whatever you decide, please know that residents of our community benefit from the funds that are raised.

The United Way has incentive prize drawings for contributors. Please read your pledge cards carefully for full details. Among the prizes are a 2018 Volkswagen Jetta, several \$1,000 gift cards for grocery shopping, travel certificates and more.

We hope to complete the Schuylkill campaign by early November. If you have questions, please call public affairs at **570-621-5555** or email Michael.Peckman@lvhn.org. Thank you for your consideration.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

United Way pledge cards and support information will be distributed with next week's pay checks. Our local United Way representatives recently met with department managers and supervisors to discuss this year's campaign and show [the new campaign video](#). (You also can watch the video and learn more on SchuylkillUnitedWay.org.) The video features an overview of several of the local agencies with the local providers telling their stories.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LVH-Schuylkill Auxiliary

Art for a Cause

Featuring the artwork of Abdul Wahhab, MD
Benefits breast cancer awareness and support
Wednesday, Oct. 18
The Lodge at Sharp Mountain

Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing Open House

Thursday, Oct. 19, 6-8 p.m.
450 Washington Street, Pottsville

AYCE Spaghetti Dinner

Benefits gentle yoga for cancer patients
Saturday, Oct. 21, noon-6 p.m.
Schaeffer Harley-Davidson, Orwigsburg
Look for flyers with details.

LVH-Schuylkill Auxiliary

Basket Auction

Tuesday, Oct. 31, and Wednesday, Nov. 1
Wall Auditorium



Community Engagement

Members of the community attended LVH-Schuylkill's broadcast of the health network's "I Pink I Can" event which featured educational programs on women's health issues including cardiac care, breast and gynecologic health. The program was held live at LVH-Cedar Crest and simulcast to LVH-Hazleton, LVH-Muhlenberg and LVH-Schuylkill.

Medicare Patients of LVHN Providers Eligible for New Affordable Health Plans

Colleagues who know someone who is Medicare-eligible

and has an LVHN physician as a health care provider should let that person know about several affordable 2018 Medicare Advantage health plans through Highmark Blue Shield. These health plans will be made available during the insurance company's annual election period running from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7.

The wide range of plans include a zero dollar monthly premium that will be offered in Lehigh and Northampton counties, and plans with very low price points that will be available in Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Lehigh and Northampton counties.

LVHN entered into a partnership with Highmark Blue Shield last year in order to create long-term health improvements that would lower costs for both individuals and employers.

This press release provides more details on the new Medicare Advantage plans being offered through Highmark Blue Shield.

HIGHMARK BLUE SHIELD ANNOUNCES 2018 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS FOR CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH (Oct. 1, 2017) – Highmark Blue Shield announced today a wide range of affordable Medicare Advantage health plans for Medicare-eligible individuals to choose from during the 2018 annual election period, which begins Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7, 2017.

“Our plans are simple to understand and easy to use,” said Debbie Smith, Senior Vice President of Senior Markets at Highmark. “We offer affordable plans at multiple price points including zero dollar monthly premium plans. We are especially pleased that Highmark’s extensive network in Central Pennsylvania includes in-network coverage with our strategic partner Lehigh Valley Health Network.”

“Partnering with Highmark for the benefit of our Medicare-eligible population is an excellent adjunct to the recent expansions of Lehigh Valley Health Network into the east-central regions of Pennsylvania,” said Gregory Kile, LVHN Chief Insurance Officer. “Our quality care and the flexible options provided by Highmark are a perfect match for optimizing the health of our communities.”

Community Blue Medicare HMO, Highmark’s most popular Medicare Advantage plan in Western Pennsylvania, will now be available with a zero premium for the first time in Central Pennsylvania. Members pay:

- ▶ No additional monthly premiums
- ▶ No co-pays for primary care visits
- ▶ No co-pays for tier one preferred generic drugs at preferred pharmacies
- ▶ No deductibles



“Seniors tell me they love the idea of zero premium plans, but then ask how much the monthly premium is,” Smith noted. “They cannot believe such plans are possible. Yet, Highmark has over 20,000 members enrolled in zero premiums plans who already know they’re not too good to be true.”

Community Blue Medicare HMO zero premium plans offer members robust medical and prescription drug benefits as well as many supplemental benefits. Like members in other Highmark Medicare Advantage health plans, they can access routine dental cleanings every six months, routine vision care, free SilverSneakers gym memberships, routine chiropractic treatment and hearing aids. Annual wellness exams and preventive health screenings are also included. Consumers can read more about zero premium plans on the [Highmark Health Blog](#).

Community Blue Medicare PPO is Highmark’s new product offering for 2018. Community Blue Medicare PPOs offer the same benefits and use a similar network as the Community Blue Medicare HMO plans, with the additional freedom to travel across the United States and find in-network coverage. Detailed descriptions of all Highmark Medicare Advantage plans, including network and pricing are available at [Shop.Highmark.com/Medicare](#).

Highmark’s Medicare Preferred Value Network for Pharmacy is another new benefit for Medicare-eligible individuals in Central Pennsylvania. It is one of several ways Highmark helps members save money on prescription drugs. Members who choose to fill their prescriptions at participating pharmacies will save money on prescription co-pays and coinsurance, including a zero dollar co-pay for tier one preferred generic drugs. Participating pharmacies include Giant, Rite Aid, Walgreen’s, Walmart, Costco, Sam’s Club and other popular retail pharmacies.

Highmark’s Freedom Blue PPOs, BlueRx PDP standalone prescription drug plans, and Medigap Blue Medicare Supplement plans round out Highmark’s Medicare product offerings for 2018. Medigap Blue members have access to any local hospital in Pennsylvania and any physician of their choice.

TigerText – LVHN’s New Secure Messaging System

An app is now available that permits colleagues to transmit clinical and other potentially confidential information safely in a more convenient, efficient way.

Clinicians often need to communicate with a colleague about a patient. How often does this happen?

- ▶ The colleague is on rounds or in the operating room and cannot be disturbed.
- ▶ The clinician phones and waits for the colleague to call back but is tied up when the callback comes.
- ▶ The clinician sends an alpha page asking the colleague to call but runs into the same callback issues.
- ▶ The clinician considers sending a quick text but realizes standard texting applications aren’t secure and aren’t to be used to transfer patient information.

Such headaches are commonplace and time-consuming. That is why LVHN has taken steps to address the problem with [LVHN Secure Messaging](#), a cellphone, web and desktop app called TigerText that’s being used in hospitals across the country. It permits secure exchanges of patient information and other sensitive communications, including photos and video if necessary, in a moment’s notice. LVHN also is working with TigerText on the implementation of role-based functionality, which is the ability to assign a provider to a role, allowing a user to text based on a role rather than needing to know who is on call.

“It’s very similar to the texting feature in your cellphone with some significant enhancements,” says LVHN Chief Medical Information Officer Donald Levick, MD. “It is a much more convenient, efficient way to securely exchange information versus picking up a phone to page someone, then having to wait until that person responds.” In addition to the mobile app,



TigerText also offers web and desktop versions.

Levick’s team, the information services (I/S) department and various clinicians, began testing the TigerText app in December and have been rolling it out to providers and other departments over the last nine months. While the primary target was clinical departments for the secure exchange of medical information, it’s also proven to be a valuable tool among nonclinical departments that have the need for immediate confidential communications. TigerText is available to LVHN colleagues on all campuses who receive supervisor approval, and implementation is ongoing.

“We are working to define pilot programs to our nursing staff at this point,” Levick says. “When the role-based functionality enhancement is complete, we will begin to pilot hospital-issued mobile devices for our nursing staff.”

As cellular coverage has been an issue in some LVHN facilities and in some specific areas, colleagues always have the opportunity to access the Wi-Fi portion of LVHN’s Guest Network. Visit the secure messaging page for [Wi-Fi details](#).

Initially, TigerText went live on Dec. 27, 2016, being deployed to 530 “early introduction customers” – LVH–Cedar Crest physicians and residents. TigerText was deployed to the entire medical staff in January and more recently has been made available network-wide. To date, more than 3,500 colleagues utilize TigerText and the expectation is the system will soon become a crucial element in LVHN communications. Already, more messages are being exchanged through TigerText than through health network pagers. You can [register for TigerText](#) today.

“Pagers have become outdated, and TigerText will likely be replacing them network-wide except for some specific uses, such as code pagers,” Levick says. “We still have some things to work out, but I’m sure this will prove to be an invaluable tool in the near future.”



Fostering Safe Health Care Environments



The week of Oct. 8 is National Healthcare Security and Safety Week. It's a time to honor our security professionals who play a major role in keeping our hospital communities safe and secure.

"We recognize and are grateful for the contributions of security professionals, who not only are often the first line of defense against natural disasters and civil unrest, but who can also provide a friendly face and welcoming gesture in a time of need," says Jack Brobst, Director of Public Safety and Security. "We are very proud of our team and their contributions to LVH-Schuylkill."

These diligent, highly trained men and women are first responders who have a wide range of skills—from the sensitivity to deal with children separated from their parents, to the ability to respond to and effectively address emergencies of all types. What's more, they offer peace of mind by finding your lost car keys, or by simply saying "have a nice day" as you leave your work area.

Patients, colleagues and visitors are comforted by seeing our trained security personnel on the job. Keeping people safe and secure requires a partnership among security providers, law enforcement, and the communities and health care institutions they serve.

We thank our security professionals who deserve our respect and gratitude during National Healthcare Security and Safety Week and on every day of the year.

Following the Trends

Renee Magdeburg, BSN, Director of Maternal/Child Health Services, and Janel Firestone of Schuylkill Women in Crisis (SWIC) recently attended the eighth National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence in San Francisco. The conference was sponsored by Futures Without Violence. There were more than 1,200 attendees with 400 speakers presenting the latest research and promising practices to advance how health care systems respond to domestic and sexual violence. LVH-Schuylkill attended the conference through a grant awarded through SWIC.