

Feb. 8, 2019

### [First Baby Born at New LVH–Schuylkill Center](#)

See photos of the happy family.

### [New Pediatric Unit Opens – Video](#)

Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital is growing.

### [New Health Campus in Lower Nazareth](#)

Located off Rt. 33, it's designed for convenience.

### [Send Valentine's Greetings](#)

Select a card and it will be delivered to a patient.

### [Calling All LVHN Lovebirds](#)

If your spouse also is a colleague, tell us.

### [Scholarships for Allied Health Students](#)

Are you pursuing higher education in this field?

### [Protecting LVHN Data](#)

Microsoft Windows 7 security updates starting.

### [DAISY Award Recipients](#)

Hazleton and Pocono colleagues are honored.

### ['Update in Cardiology 2019'](#)

Register for this annual symposium.

### [Service Anniversary List – February](#)

Who is celebrating a career milestone?

### [Tobacco Cessation Workflow](#)

Get details about this Epic update.

PA's First  
Mobile Stroke  
Unit

[Learn More](#)



Big Island  
Trek Challenge

[Learn More](#)



New Marketing  
Campaign

[Learn More](#)



## LVHN news

Healing an Old Wound

Prostate Cancer Treatment

Itching for Answers

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# First Baby Born at New LVH-Schuylkill Family Birth and Newborn Center – PHOTOS

BY [MIKE PECKMAN](#) · FEBRUARY 6, 2019

At LVH–Schuylkill, it has been a tradition that each newborn is welcomed with the playing of a few notes of Brahms’s lullaby. It played for the last baby born at LVH-Schuylkill S. Jackson Street over the weekend. However, the tradition continues at the new Family Birth and Newborn Center at LVH-Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street. Colleagues welcomed our first newborn on Monday less than eight hours after the official opening.

Brenna Mae Petrozino came into the world at 2:55 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the Family Birth and Newborn Center. For parents Katrina Ruff and Joshua Petrozino of Minersville, it is their third child. For LVH-Schuylkill colleagues, Brenna’s arrival symbolizes the hard work, planning and attention to detail needed for introduction of this new service.

“Everything was great,” says Ruff of her experience at the Family Birth and Newborn Center. “But it’s really the staff who made it extra special. They have been so very personable and accommodating.”

Brenna weighed in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 20 inches tall. Hospital colleagues presented the family with a special basket of goodies which included a giant giraffe chair, picture frames, rattles, baby blankets, socks, diapers and plenty of “I got my first Hug at LVHN” bling. Colleagues also presented a hand-crocheted outfit donated by Samantha Grant, wife of Care Management Director Andre Grant, RN.

Big brother Parker, 4, and big sister Lena, 2, were all smiles as they had their first visit with their new baby sister. They enjoyed snacks and other items provided by our team. Both Parker and Lena were born at the Family Birth and Newborn Center at LVH-Schuylkill S. Jackson Street.



This past weekend at LVH-Schuylkill S. Jackson Street, colleagues welcomed the last baby born at that campus. That newborn has a special connection to LVH-Schuylkill and in particular, the Family Birth and Newborn unit there.

Madelyn Maurer was born at 11:19 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces. She is the daughter of Brook Wolfe and Joshua Maurer. The grandmother is Family Birth and Newborn Center nurse Phyllis Maurer, RN.

The Maurer family was presented with a hand-crocheted outfit made by retired OR nurse Theresa Cromyak. Cromyak's daughter, Kim, an I/S colleague at LVH-Schuylkill, asked her mom to make an outfit to mark the special occasion, the last baby born at LVH-Schuylkill S. Jackson Street.

"I knew we would be recognizing and celebrating the first born in our new Family Birth and Newborn Center and I was hoping we could do the same for the last baby born at South," Kim says.

There were two babies born at LVH-Schuylkill on Monday. Both were presented with a welcome basket. Also, February is National Heart Health Month. All babies born on the unit are presented with a special cap from the American Heart Association.



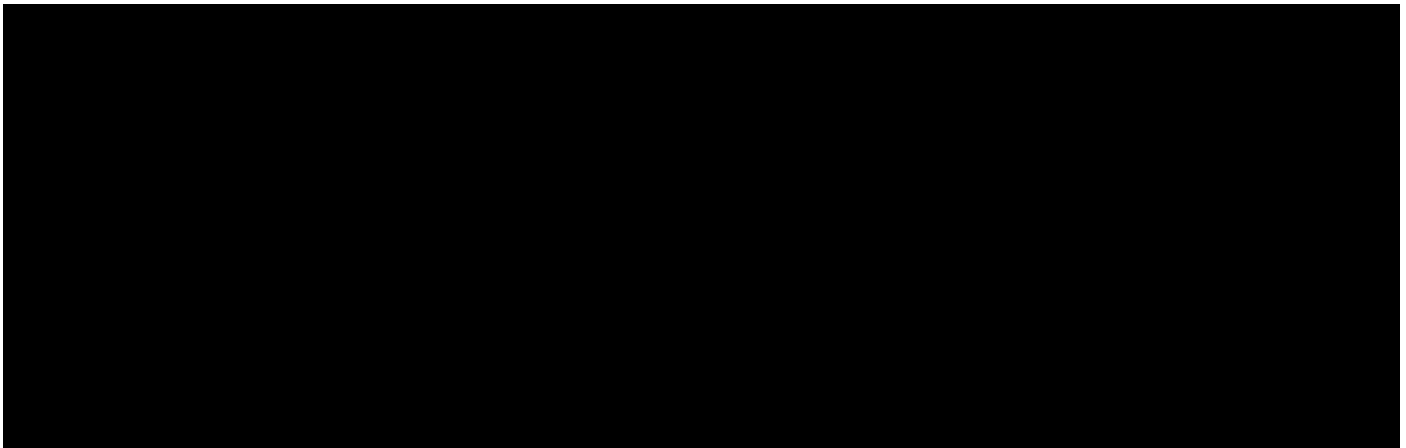
# New Pediatric Unit Opens at Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital – VIDEO

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · FEBRUARY 7, 2019



A new inpatient pediatric unit opened today at Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital. The unit features 30 private patient rooms. It has numerous amenities and features to give kids a comfortable place to get well, and families the space to support their child during their hospital stay.

Watch this video to take a tour of the unit.





The new pediatric unit is located at LVH–Cedar Crest on the fifth floor of the Jaindl Family Pavilion. The opening of the unit is part of a plan that will bring services from more than 30 pediatric specialties under one roof at Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital.



“When a child needs hospital care, it’s a difficult time for families,” Physician-in-Chief of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children’s Hospital J. Nathan Hagstrom, MD, said. “With this unit, we give families peace of mind from knowing they will receive quality care close to home in a place designed for the specific needs of children and their loved ones.”

The new pediatric unit, at 24,000 square feet, has more than twice the space than the previous pediatric unit at the Children’s Hospital. The unit has a friendly environment for kids that includes patient rooms identifiable by colorful animals such as the “Blue Bear” room or “Red Rabbit” room. Each room has a playful design and décor, a sleeper sofa for parents to spend the night, a desk for parents who need to work while supporting their child, and plenty of storage. A lounge, bathroom, shower, and washer and dryer are available on the unit that families can use while they stay with their child.



The opening of the pediatric unit is part of the growth planned for the Children's Hospital following [a generous gift from local business owners and philanthropists J.B. and Kathleen Reilly](#). Construction is underway on a dedicated lobby for Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital. The colorful and welcoming lobby will open in the spring of 2019. Expansion of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), and development of surgical, child-life and community health services for children also are planned.

# New Health Campus Planned for Lower Nazareth Township

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · FEBRUARY 4, 2019

## Special Announcement



**This message is from Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, Lehigh Valley Health Network President and Chief Executive Officer.**

To further our mission, LVHN must continue to grow to give more people convenient access to the health care services they need close to home. I am excited to share news with you about our plans to give people of all ages in Northampton County more convenient access to the quality care they expect and deserve.

LVHN will build the first phase of a new health campus just off Route 33 along Hecktown Road in Lower Nazareth Township. Plans include a 156,000-square-foot hospital and medical office building designed for patient convenience. The campus will offer health care services for the entire family and provide easy access to advanced surgical, emergency, and orthopedic care, advanced imaging, diagnostic testing and more. The name of the campus will be announced when ground is broken in the spring of 2019. Grand opening is slated for fall 2020.

The campus will include an emergency room (ER) that cares for adults *and* children, expanding the services Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital

provides children and their families in Northampton County. The nearby Health Center at Palmer Township gives families access to providers in more than 30 pediatric specialties and provides walk-in care at the region's only Children's ExpressCARE. An ER featuring space designed just for children is



*Hospital*



the next step in the evolution of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, the region's leader in pediatric care.

The construction of the campus is a direct response to demand for LVHN care in Northampton County, where nearly one-third of residents already receive health care services from an LVHN provider. Over the last seven years, the number of visits from Northampton County residents to Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG) providers increased 91 percent. In fiscal year 2018, LVPG had more than 430,000 visits from Northampton County residents.

The people of Northampton County asked for convenient access to LVHN's adult and pediatric services, and we listened. By providing advanced services and technology, and the patient-centered and compassionate care for which LVHN is known, close to where families live, work and play, we can help more people live their healthiest life.

The campus' one-story hospital will look and feel different than a typical high-rise institution. It will be smaller, easy to navigate and feature a healing garden. The goal is to create a calming, comforting environment that will help people feel at ease and heal better. The campus will contain leading-edge equipment needed for today's innovative treatments and telemedicine technology to make care more convenient. With these features, patients and their families can expect extraordinary care and a top-notch experience.

In addition to the ER, the hospital will include private patient rooms with views of the healing garden, state-of-the-art operating suites, Lehigh Valley Special Surgery Institute and Lehigh Valley Heart Institute services, a Musculoskeletal Center and more. The medical office building will provide convenient access to outpatient primary and specialty care, including breast health services, leading-edge diagnostic testing and comprehensive rehabilitation services. The campus will make it easy for area residents to get the health care services they need throughout life and throughout the continuum of care. The design of the campus also includes ample space for future growth.



*Medical Office Building*

The campus is the latest addition to a group of health care resources LVHN established in Northampton



County to make care more accessible and convenient for area families. Over the last 20 years, LVHN opened health centers in Bangor, Bath, Bethlehem Township, and most recently in Easton and Palmer Township; established six ExpressCARE locations, including the region's first for children; and opened numerous practices providing primary, specialty and rehabilitation services for the whole family, including a facility in Madison Farms that provides specialty services for women and children.

These facilities and the new health campus will meet the evolving health care needs of families in a growing community. We're acting now to ensure the health care service families need most are in place today and in the future.

An LVHN hospital in Northampton County also will enhance care coordination. By providing patients with a single electronic medical record through Epic that can be accessed at locations across the health network, we will help ensure seamless care for patients between our physician practices and the new hospital.

Please share this exciting news with your family, friends and neighbors. We want everyone to know what we're doing to make it even more convenient for children, adults and seniors to access the high-quality care LVHN provides. Thank you for all you do to heal, comfort and care for our community, and for making LVHN exceptional.

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# Send Your Valentine's Day Greetings to Lehigh Valley Hospital Patients

BY [JENN FISHER](#) · FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Fragrant roses, chocolate-dipped strawberries or pastel candy hearts might spell "I LUV U" to some on Valentine's Day – but at Lehigh Valley Hospital, we show our patients that love with hand-delivered Valentine's Day cards. This surprise card shower was such a splash last year, we're ready to make it rain again, and we need your help.

## **Pick a card, any card.**

Visit [LVHN.org/valentine](http://LVHN.org/valentine) and select from the eight valentine greetings. We have one in Spanish.

## **Type a message from your heart.**

You can include a personal message of encouragement. Remember: This will be shared with a patient selected at random. Sending more than one card is encouraged, but make sure you do so by Sunday, Feb. 10.

## **We'll take it from there.**

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 13, and concluding on Thursday, Feb. 14, printed Valentine's Day cards will be delivered to patients by LVHN volunteers at all of our hospitals: LVH–Cedar Crest, LVH–17th Street, LVH–Muhlenberg, both LVH–Schuylkill campuses, LVH–Hazleton and LVH–Pocono. Last year, more than 1,300 colorful cards were given out, with greetings coming from as far as Japan and as near as Allentown.

LVHN thanks Christmas City Printing and Alcom Printing for their support of LVHN's Valentine's Day card shower.



# Calling All LVHN Lovebirds: Tell Us Your Story!

BY [NINA ACE](#) · FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Talk about a meet-cute: a little look across the room, a sweet conversation in the elevator, a special moment shared at an after-work gathering. Even the most innocent interactions can fuel the spark of true love. Does this ring true for you? If you found love at LVHN and married that special someone (that special colleague), we want to know.



In the spirit of spreading the love this time of year, we're looking to identify as many #LVHNProud couples as possible for a roundup of "LVHN Lovebirds." If you and your beloved fit the bill, [submit a photo and a little note on LVHN Daily](#) about how you met. You never know what your very own love story may inspire.

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# Scholarships Available for Students Pursuing Allied Health Careers

BY [ADMIN](#) · FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Are you pursuing higher education in the [allied health](#) field or know someone who is? You may be eligible for a scholarship through LVHN's APC Executive Council. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2019.

## **The Mabel W. Riker Memorial Endowment Fund**

Eligible colleagues may apply for a \$3,000 scholarship through the Mabel W. Riker Memorial Endowment Fund. A total of four scholarships will be awarded to colleagues who meet the below requirements:

- Colleague must be a full-time employee in good standing with a minimum of one year of service to LVHN.
- Colleague must be pursuing higher education in an [allied health discipline](#) at an accredited institution.
- Colleague must be a high school graduate or have a GED from a Pennsylvania public high school. First preference will be given to graduates of the Allentown School District.
- Eligible colleagues who require financial assistance to attend an allied health program at an accredited college or university may also apply.



## **The Margaret E. Berger Endowment for Allied Health Education Fund**

Eligible colleagues, family or community members may apply for a \$7000 scholarship through the Margaret E. Berger Endowment for Allied Health Education Fund. A total of two scholarships will be awarded to individuals who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be a full-time employee in good standing with a minimum of one year of service to LVHN.
- Applicants must be a high school graduate, or have a GED from a Pennsylvania public high school. First preference will be given to graduates of the Allentown School District.
- Immediate family members of a colleague or community members in need of educational financial assistance who meet the eligibility requirements are welcome to apply. Applicants must be accepted to an allied health program at an accredited college or university.

Interested applicants should [submit their application](#) along with two references no later than May 1,



2019. The APC Executive Council Selection Committee will evaluate each applicant based on the above criteria. The decision of the selection committee is final.

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# Protecting LVHN Data Through Security Updates

BY [TINA VO](#) · FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Security updates are critical to protecting LVHN data and our colleagues. One of the ways we deploy these updates is by “patching.”

Patching workstations, servers and other critical pieces of technology on a regular basis with the latest security updates helps protect LVHN. Since November, information services (I/S) has successfully deployed Microsoft Windows 7 security updates to more than 700 workstations and laptops throughout the health network. To ensure LVHN is protected, we will deploy security updates/patches for Microsoft Windows 7 security several times per calendar year.



## **I/S security updates begin this week**

The next round of Microsoft Windows 7 security updates is now underway. It is expected updates will be complete by June. Most devices will receive these updates automatically, based on the schedule.

Members of I/S will be visiting various clinical areas to proactively install the security updates on critical patient care devices to prevent disruption. These areas will include labor and delivery, Sleep Disorders Center, operating rooms, intensive care unit (ICU), etc.

## **See security update schedule**

To see when your area will be scheduled to receive the updates, please review the schedule: [LVHN Microsoft Security Update Schedule](#).

## **See how to install the updates**

Want to make sure your workstation is protected now? Take a look at the [Installation Procedure for Windows Software Updates Guide](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the I/S Support Center by calling 610-402-8303.

# DAISY Award Recipients Honored at LVH–Pocono and LVH–Hazleton

BY [HOLLY YACYNYCH](#) · FEBRUARY 6, 2019

LVH–Pocono nurses Carolyn Overpeck, RN, and Marissa Oyer, RN, as well as LVH–Hazleton nurse Tonia Barron, BSN, RN, were nominated and recognized by colleagues and patients for a DAISY Award. The DAISY Award recognizes nurses who exhibit exceptional levels of care, compassion and professionalism. Read excerpts from patient letters and colleague nominations:

## **October 2018**

### **Carolyn Overpeck, RN**

LVH–Pocono, progressive care unit (2B)

Nominated by: Patient

- “Throughout my dad’s stay, Carolyn was always so nice, made sure he had anything he needed and made me more comfortable about him being here. I knew he was in good hands.”
- “During my recent stay, Carolyn took the time to explain my medications and how they would help me. I felt so at ease with Carolyn. Carolyn is a great asset to your nursing staff.”
- “Carolyn treats her patients with such care and listens to your concerns. As a patient, the most important part is knowing that someone cares. Carolyn has that compassion.”



## **November 2018**

### **Marissa Oyer, RN**

LVH–Pocono, infusion services

Nominated by: Iylana Rabinowitz,  
infusion services technical partner

“Marissa is a selfless nurse. She is always willing to go above and beyond for any patient at any time.”

- “I have been coming here for my infusion since 2009. I had the pleasure of Marissa being my nurse several times. She is very accurate and does her job very well. She is very sweet and kind and has a wonderful personality, not only with me but with all the other patients around me.”
- “What does my nurse do for me? She goes above and beyond her duty. She makes me feel like I’m her friend, not just her patient. When you’re living with cancer, you need to feel like you’re not alone, and Marissa does that for me. Imagine how one nurse can make a difference in one’s life. Well, that’s what my nurse does for me.”



### January 2019

#### **Tonia Barron, BSN**

LVH–Hazleton, emergency department

Nominated by: Patient’s son

“My 91-year-old father was a patient in the ER recently for a traumatic fall. During that time he required a lot of care, including sutures for a large laceration. My wife and I were very impressed with Tonia’s approach and compassion for my father. My father was very embarrassed about his fall and having to come to the hospital, but Tonia helped him remain calm and went





a step above what she needed when caring for him.”

?

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation, based in California, was established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at the age of 33 from complications of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

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# Register for 'Update in Cardiology 2019'

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Lehigh Valley Heart Institute will be hosting its annual Update in Cardiology symposium on Saturday, March 2. James Young, MD, from the Cleveland Clinic will be the event's keynote speaker.

**The Nurse and Allied Health Professionals track** will be a live event at LVH–Cedar Crest, but also simulcasted to LVH–Pocono, LVH–Hazleton and LVH–Schuylkill.

Program objectives:

- Cite the mechanisms and risks associated with myocardial infarction with non-obstructive coronary arteries.
- List the pacing indications, options and troubleshooting for modern pacemakers.
- Articulate the treatment options for shock management.
- Identify the solutions for mechanical complications associated with ventricular assist devices. (LVH-Cedar Crest)
- List the options for surgical mechanical support for cardiogenic shock. (Simulcast)
- Identify indications for ventricular assist devices.

Attendees will be eligible for 3.75 contact hours. [Get more details and register.](#)

**The Physician and Advanced Practice Clinician track** will take place at LVH–Cedar Crest.

Program Objectives:

- Identify appropriateness for coronary artery interventions in acute shock.
- Articulate the new definition of myocardial infarction.
- Review the new technology, clinical pathways and best practices that are decreasing mortality and improving outcomes for patients in cardiogenic shock.
- List the options for surgical mechanical support for cardiogenic shock.
- Identify indications for ventricular assist devices.

Attendees will be eligible for 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. [Get more details and register.](#)

Registration is free for both tracks but required by Feb. 27.

# Service Anniversary List – February 2019

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Happy anniversary to these colleagues celebrating a career milestone at LVHN in February 2019. Congratulate them on their years of service.

## 40 years

Michele Cassic, Quality & Safety

John Lehr, Emergency Preparedness

## 35 years

Cheryl Barry, Obstetrics

Judi Barton, Preop-Same Day Surgery

Theresa Heigl, Pre-Admission Testing

## 30 years

Nancy Andrews, Obstetrics

Leslie Baga, NORI Administration

Lori Bechtel, Supply Distribution Services

Susan Borger, Ultrasound

Sabrina Brobst, Home Health Care

Mary Ellen Cortese, Finance

Donna Flurer, CVM

Keith Greene, Engineering

Denise Hersh, Bed Management

Holly Horan, LVPG Cressona

Mary Humes, Pharmacy



Daria Kayes, 6 North

Penelope Kemmerer, Fairgrounds Surgical Center

Catherine Marri, Fairgrounds Surgical Center

Lisa Ondush, Specialty Float Pool ER

Mary Onifer-Smith, Labor & Delivery

Lori Reiner, Health care Research

Stephanie Sawka, Sterile Processing

Michelle Siminitus, School of Nursing

### **25 years**

Joanne Armitage, LVPG-P Vascular Surg-Bartonsvl

Eileen Charlton, Info Svcs Customer Service

Sharon Demko, Ob Gyn

Lisa Iannelli, Coding Integrity

Carol Murmello, Rehab Services Tilghman

Stephanie Pasker, Med Surg 5

Gerald Rodriguez, LVPG Bariatric Medicine-1243Cedar Crest

Susan Tellez, LVPG-Claude A. Lord Boulevard

Patti Weaver, Clinical Social Work

### **20 years**

Randall Bankes, Epic

Lori Barron, Nurse Staffing Office

Cynthia Davis, HOA Muhlenberg

Susan Holler, Cancer Financial Services

Kathleen Kelly, Population Health

Marianne Kostenbader, Dept. of Emergency Medicine



Tammy Mathisen, HealthWorks

Jean Parenti, Supply Distribution Services

Jennifer Seifert, Group Health Admin Svcs

Lora Tarr, Cancer Center Radiation

John Wheary, ED Providers

**15 years**

Michelle Bensinger, Nursing Informatics

Brian Blagbrough, Info Svcs Technical Operations

Tasleem Chaudhry, OP Lab

Matthew Dambrosia, Schuylkill Rehab

Maria Ebert, Coding Integrity

Maria Eisenhart, Radiology

Kevin Hartman, Specialty Float Pool ER

Karima Jones, LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology-1245 Cedar Crest

Penny Klinger, General & Administration

Dorothea Kull, Dietary

Darlene Miller, Communications

Michael Nodich, Cat Scan

Rebecca Oren, LVPG Internal Medicine-Muhlenberg

Francine Paterno, Operating Room

Stacey Petrowski, 4KS Medical/Surgical Unit

Francine Rich-Benton, Respiratory Therapy

Sylvia Sanchez, TNICU

Cynthia Schaffer, Emergency Department

Sally Sedwin, Op Intake

Michele Shappell, Nursing Informatics

Danielle Widrick, RAD OR

Arlene Wilczewski, Labor & Delivery

**10 years**

Patti Arndt, Interventional Radiology

Amanda Backensto, ABCFP/Rice PHYS Capacity Pilot

Georgene Bellizzi, Children's Clinic

Victoria Broscius, Inpatient Rehab

Allison Cassel, Upper Bucks Health & Diagnostic

Stella Cebrosky, 3A IPCU

Tammy Cooper, 6 North

Melissa D'Ancona, Med Surg 7

Keri Daubert, Nuclear Med

Debra Deery, Operating Room LVHN-Tilghman

Marylou Frederick, Supply Distribution Services

Michelle Gehris, Labor & Delivery

Melissa Goida, Dietary

James Hobar, Adult Ped Psychiatry

Jodi Hooven, Mammography

Michele Hunsinger, 6KS Inpatient Rehab Facility

Janet Korinchock, Med Surg 4

Julia Koziel, Nursing Admin

Susan Kuklis, Geriatric Psych

Lisa Lacy, BH 2

Katie Martino, Radiology

Kerry-Ann Mcgrath, Float Nursing

Beth Montgomery, 5 North

Darlene Pierre-Pierre, Trauma

Nancy Rowe, Pediatric Unit

Aliza Ruhe, Education Infrastructure

Maria Thomas, Lehigh Valley Anesthesia Services

Tara Woodland, Psychiatry

Beth Wubbolt, Center for Women's Medicine

### **5 years**

Adam Achenbach, Magnetic Imaging

Valerie Augello, Health Spectrum Pharmacy

Kelsey Barrett, Cardiac ICU

Amanda Carroll, LVPG-Pocono Oncology

Lourdes Cepeda, Patient Registration

Meredith Dabney, LVPG Process Improv & Access

Alice David, Progressive Coronary Care Unit

Rachel Dilcher, LVPG Orthopedics Specialty

Sara D'Imperio, LVPG Family Medicine-Nazareth

Deborah Eck, Magnetic Imaging

Javiera Espinoza, Emergency Services

Amanda Evans, LVPG Family & Internal Medicine-Alliance Drive

Kimberly Fleming, LVPG Family Medicine-Muhlenberg

Grace Hochella, Home Care – Skilled Nursing

Jodie Hourt, Magnetic Imaging

Linda Hower, Magnetic Imaging

Reena,Kanabar, LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology-West Broad

Carrilee Knight, LVPG Infectious Disease-1250 Cedar Crest

Susan Koplin, MRI

Jodi Lenko, LVPG Family & Internal Medicine-Alliance Drive

Frances Lester, Medical Records

Jennifer Litz, Magnetic Imaging

Meagan Long, LVPG Family Medicine-Trexlerstown

Joshua Madas, Epic

Katie Martin, 7T Med/Surg

Helen McCallum, LVPG Family Medicine-Easton Ave.

Jennifer McDonald, Cancer Financial Services

Michele Miller, Magnetic Imaging

Catherine Morrow, Express Admissions Unit

Melanie Murray, Magnetic Imaging

Larissa Ninivaggi, HC/HO Central Business Office

Rosaline Owusu, LVPG Family Medicine-Whitehall

Joy Paniczko, 4T Med/Surg

Alison Pasierb, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Jeffrey Perkins, LVPG Physiatry-Gunderson

Mary Possinger, LVPG Internal Medicine-Bartonsville

Tara Robertson, Health Spectrum Pharmacy

Kathleen Ruzicka, Magnetic Imaging

Melissa Sharpley, Magnetic Imaging

Alison Shields, Maternal Fetal Medicine

Noreen Shinsec, Home Care – Skilled Nursing



Lorna Short, Patient Accounting

Amanda Stettler, LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology-Laury's Station

Nickole Tray, Dietary

Tiffany Velez, Mental Health

Tara Wagner, Nursing Float Pool

Michael Washinsky, LVPG Family & Internal Medicine-Alliance Drive

Donna Wendling, Info Svcs Data Analytics

Patricia Werdann, Precertification Dept

Stephen Wolk, Cardiology

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# Epic Workflow Update: Tobacco Cessation

BY [MARCIANN ALBERT](#) · FEBRUARY 7, 2019

On Jan. 30, a new Epic workflow update for Tobacco Cessation went live, affecting all areas that care for patients 18 years or older.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) changed how clinicians must document that a patient has been screened and counseled for tobacco abuse.

Screenings can still be performed by clinical staff, however, for all patients 18 years and older with a tobacco use documented, clinicians are required to provide tobacco cessation counseling at every encounter and every location.

A Best Practice Advisory (BPA) will launch at each visit for “Reviewing Tobacco Use” and if applicable, for “Current Smoker Cessation” documentation.

BPA for reviewing tobacco use (staff can complete this BPA):

- Fires only if the smoking or smokeless tobacco status is not reviewed during that encounter
- Fires only for patients age 18 years and older
- Includes a link to the social history navigator to review

BPA for current smokers (staff cannot complete this BPA):

- Fires for all patients, regardless of age, who are **current smokers or smokeless tobacco users** if the “Tobacco Counseling Cessation Provided” is not selected in the social history section
- **PCPs/Internal Medicine Providers** will have one acknowledge button to document “Counseling Given.”
- **Specialists** will have two buttons, one for “Defer to PCP” to indicate that the specialist counseled the patient to work with their PCP on tobacco cessation, and another button will allow the specialist to document “Counseling Given.”

On the after-visit summary (AVS), it will automatically pull in text if the patient is currently a smoker or smokeless tobacco user. Regardless of what the provider selects in the BPA, this will automatically be included.



The text will read:

- **For PCPs:** Our records indicate that you smoke or use smokeless tobacco, which are hazardous to your health. I encourage you to stop. We have many treatment options available for you, so please let us know when you are ready to quit.
- **For Specialists:** Our records indicate that you smoke or use smokeless tobacco. This is hazardous to your health. Please discuss tobacco cessation with your PCP at your next visit.

On the encounter summary, the print group will say either “Patient counseled on tobacco cessation” or “Patient referred to PCP for tobacco cessation counseling.” This is dependent on which option was selected in the BPA/Social History navigator.

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