



Progress Notes

MEDICAL STAFF

INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

Eye Examination Required for Laser Equipment Usage - Page 2

New Medical Ethics Program to Begin - Page 2

HealthEast Telephone Answer Service Announces Change - Page 2

Physician Information Services Liaison Selected - Page 3

Pharmacy and Therapeutics Highlights - Pages 11 and 12

Welcome Back!

David J. Barillo, M.D., plastic surgeon, has returned to his practice following his tour of duty in Texas while serving in Operation Desert Storm.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many of you are aware, there has been a renewed interest in pursuing various managed care proposals on the part of the Administration as well as in some quarters of the Medical Staff. The Prudential Company has identified our institution for consideration under their "Institutes of Quality" program for cardiovascular services. Under this proposal, Prudential's insured would be directed to our hospital from a wide geographic area, well beyond our usual referral patterns. The hospital in turn would provide a "package price" arrangement which would cover all services for the patient's stay here.

This approach appears to hold the promise of "capturing" patients not normally treated here and has the potential for considerable growth. Negotiations are in the preliminary stage. We will endeavor to keep you posted on more details as they become available.

Another proposal which has surfaced comes from U.S. HealthCare, formerly HMO/PA. Under the proposed arrangement, only the Departments of Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology would be involved. Due partly to the somewhat controversial nature of this HMO in the past, a considerable amount of discussion was engendered about this proposal at our recent Medical Executive Committee meeting. There will be an opportunity for further comment at the upcoming General Medical Staff meeting. You will find a summary report of the Ad Hoc Committee which was charged to examine the specifics of HMO/PA's proposed contract with TAH--LVHC at the General Medical Staff meeting on September 16.

The issue of HIV and Hepatitis Testing of the Medical Staff is another topic commanding our attention. A high-level committee has been formed to examine various options, and a draft proposal is currently being formulated.

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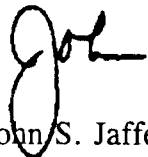
The Allentown
Hospital—
Lehigh Valley
Hospital Center

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SEPTEMBER, 1991

(Continued from Page 1)

The final version of the Medical Staff's Mission/Vision Statement has been approved by the Medical Executive Committee and will be available for your review at the General Medical Staff meeting. A considerable amount of thought and discussion has gone into its development; however, we would be open to any important substantive changes which the Medical Staff may offer.

I encourage you to forward your thoughts and comments on these or any other issues of importance to the Medical Staff Services Office or members of the Medical Executive Committee. Your constructive input will help us formulate policies of consensus on these sometimes difficult issues.



John S. Jaffe, M.D.
President, Medical Staff

Eye Examination Required for Laser Equipment Usage

In order to continue to use hospital laser equipment, all laser credentialed attending physicians and residents **MUST** have the necessary eye examination no later than Friday, November 29, 1991. This requirement reflects Laser Policy #7101.00 approved by Medical Executive Committee on June 4, 1991.

If you have any questions, please contact David Rice, Director, Microsurgery, at 776-8977.

New Medical Ethics Program Introduced

A new educational program in medical ethics, called *Decisions Near the End of Life*, is being started at TAH--LVHC. It is a modular program designed for presentations to large groups and also for small discussion groups that are multidisciplinary. The program was developed by the Educational Development Corporation (EDC) in Boston, a non-profit organization, in conjunction with the Hastings Center and has been piloted in a number of hospitals and nursing homes in the United States. Coordinators of the hospital's program -- Rev. Emily Jean Gilbert, Assistant Director, Pastoral Care, Marilyn Rourke, B.S.N., CCRN, Head Nurse, Shock/Trauma Unit, and Joseph E. Vincent, M.D., Medical Director, Critical Care -- are impressed by the materials and format and believe that it will be a valuable ongoing process for caregivers within the institution.

The first step in beginning this process is to distribute a confidential questionnaire, designed by the EDC, which will help to determine attitudes, knowledge, and concerns of caregivers within the institution concerning ethical issues. Results of the questionnaires, which will be tabulated by the EDC, will be

incorporated into the actual educational modular material. These results will be reported in various group presentations within the hospital such as departmental grand rounds.

Questionnaires are expected to be distributed in September to physicians with active staff privileges. In addition, the same questionnaire will be distributed to randomly selected nurses, respiratory therapists, chaplains, physical therapists, dietitians, and social workers within the institution for their input. In order to obtain an adequate sampling from the large variety of caregivers within the institution, it is extremely important that these questionnaires be completed and returned to the Critical Care Office at the LVHC site.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact one of the coordinators: Rev. Gilbert at 776-8470, Mrs. Rourke at 776-8930, or Dr. Vincent at 776-8450.

HealthEast Telephone Answer Service to Change Call-in Number

Effective October 1, the call-in telephone numbers for the HealthPage Telephone Answer Service -- 435-9031 and 434-9551 -- will be discontinued. Please use 821-9777 as the replacement for these two numbers.

KePRO KORNER

Following is a step-by-step process to assist physicians in the appeal of KePRO quality denials.

When a physician receives a KePRO denial, the physician should first notify the Quality Assessment Office at 778-2414, providing the patient's name, hospital site, admission and discharge dates, and issue in question; then forward a copy of the KePRO letter to the Quality Assessment Office at TAH site.

The Quality Assessment Office will then assign the case a Quality Assurance log number, assign to the Department Quality Assurance Committee member for physician review, coordinate physician review, and provide the physician with a blinded copy of the reviewer's findings.

The physician should then submit written documentation to KePRO to appeal KePRO's decision.

Physician I/S Liaison Selected

Charles A. Gordon, M.D., general internist, has been selected as the Physician Information Services (I/S) Liaison, a newly formed, part-time position to provide physician leadership in implementing and using a new Patient Care, Management and Accounting (PCMA) system and the Physician Communications Network (PCN).

Dr. Gordon was chosen from a number of applicants by a selection committee consisting of Charles J. Scagliotti, M.D., I/S Physician Committee Chairman; Paul E. Nurick, Executive Vice President and COO; Richard E. Duncan, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer; and John W. Hart, Vice President. The selection committee then made their recommendation to Samuel R. Huston, Hospital President and CEO, and John S. Jaffe, M.D., Medical Staff President, for final approval.

In his new role, Dr. Gordon will work with the physician, hospital, and information services staffs to tailor the PCMA and PCN systems to improve the hospital's clinical, financial, and administrative procedures to provide better care for patients.

If you have any questions regarding the Physician I/S Liaison, please contact either Dr. Gordon at 433-1366, Mr. Duncan at 778-1406, or Dr. Jaffe at 776-8968.

Neurodiagnostic Laboratory On-Call Coverage

On-call coverage for the Neurodiagnostic (EEG) Laboratory is available on weekends and holidays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EEG technologists will respond to on-call requests for the following services: electrical cerebral

silence, status epilepticus, and evaluation of cortical function when unable to obtain neurodiagnostic studies, i.e., obesity, equipment failure.

Please note, however, that it is the responsibility of the ordering physician to contact the neurologist who will be reading the tracing before an EEG technician is called. **A neurologist must be available to interpret the study.**

EEG technologists may be reached through beeper #1100. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Margaret Jessup, Director, EEG/Neurodiagnostic Lab, at 776-8846 or beeper #1348.

Enteral Formulary Card Available

The latest Enteral Formulary Card is now available through Nutrition Support Service. This handy reference guide for physicians contains all enteral products carried by Clinical Nutrition Services and includes a description of the nutritional analysis of each product, i.e., calories, protein, vitamins, and minerals, as well as nutritive sources and the manufacturer of the product.

Cards are available upon request and may be obtained by called Nutrition Support Service at 776-8440 or by paging Judy Holaska, Nutrition Support Dietitian, at beeper #1162.

Patient Triage Problem Being Addressed

Patient triage continues to be an ongoing problem in the hospital. With the assistance of the Director of Critical Care, the Special Care Committee, and the Cardiovascular Service Unit, a number of ideas are being considered to address this problem.

It has been noted that some patients, who may be suitable for transfer later in the day, are remaining in monitored beds overnight until morning rounds. If appropriate, physicians are asked to transfer their patients later in the day which will "free up" needed monitored beds.

Your cooperation in this matter will help improve the ongoing problem of patient triage.

Prostate Cancer Screenings Scheduled

During Prostate Cancer Awareness Week, which will be celebrated from September 22-28, prostate cancer screenings will be available in the clinic area on the ground floor of TAH site. Scheduled for Thursday, September 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, September 28, from 1 to 4 p.m., the free screenings will include a digital rectal exam and a PSA blood test for men over the age of 40.

Appointments are recommended but not required.

For more information, call the Comprehensive Community Cancer Center at 778-2582.

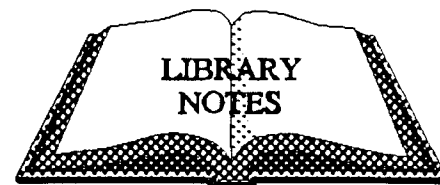


LABORATORY UPDATE

Name Changes to Laboratory Tests

To reflect current nomenclature, the Laboratory will begin to use the abbreviation ALT in place of SGPT, and AST in place of SGOT. Currently, both the old and the new abbreviations will be used on report forms; however, in a few months, the old abbreviations will be dropped.

Additionally, the Laboratory would like to promote the use of Thyroid Hormone Binding Ratio (THBR) to replace T₃ Uptake (T₃U). Currently, confusion arises as to which test is requested and consequently the Laboratory has been doing an inappropriate number of unwanted, expensive Total T₃ (T₃-RIA). As Laboratory requisitions are redone, the change will be incorporated into the Laboratory ordering procedure.



September is amnesty month for returning overdue materials!

Please make a special effort this month to return overdue library materials. The date due slip at the back of the book indicates when the item is due. As a reminder, books may be borrowed for a three-week period, and bound journals and clinics may be loaned for one week. Individual issues, however, may not leave the library.

Recent Acquisitions

New additions to TAH site include:

Jones. **Interviewing the Sexually Abused Child.** 3d ed. Gaskell, 1988.

Nichols. **Reoperative Gynecologic Surgery.** Mosby-Yearbook, 1991.

Goetzman. **Neonatal Intensive Care Handbook.** 2d ed. Mosby-Yearbook, 1991.

New acquisitions at the LVHC site include:

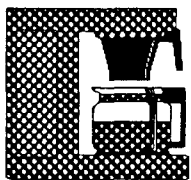
Fazio. **Current Therapy in Colon and Rectal Surgery.** BC Decker, 1990.

Matthews. **McAlpine's Multiple Sclerosis.** 2d ed. Churchill, 1991.

Parrillo. **Current Therapy in Critical Care.** 2d ed. BC Decker, 1991.

Burrow. **Thyroid Function and Diseases** Saunders, 1989.

New Coffee Service



Available in Medical S t a f f Lounge

As you may have noticed, a new coffee service has been obtained for the Medical Staff lounge at both hospital sites.

The new service -- Filterfresh -- is a single-cup coffee system which filter brews coffee, cup by cup, and will be available 24 hours a day. Hot water is also available for tea drinkers.

The cost for the coffee, courtesy of the Medical Staff, is based on average monthly consumption. The more you drink, the less each cup costs. Enjoy!

Newsy Notes

* The Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Women and Infants/Pediatric SSU have recently acquired a telefax machine. The telefax number is 778-9688.

* Effective Tuesday, September 3, the telephone number for the Open Heart Unit was changed to 778-1250. Please make a note of this change.

* Effective immediately, the name of the Adjunctive Therapy Department has changed to Psychiatric Rehabilitation.

Interpreter Services

As you may know, the hospital maintains a list of employees and physicians who have volunteered to serve as interpreters for non-English speaking patients. An updated list of interpreters is in the process of being revised and will be distributed to all departments and nursing units in the near future. When interpreter services are required, please refer to this list. If, however, no interpreter is available, please contact one of the patient representatives or a nursing coordinator for the number and access code for the Language Line.

This service is available for 140 different languages. The Language Line is to be used for consults, history taking, and discharge instructions. Additionally, Point Talk brochures are available on all nursing units to assist with the interpretation of commonly used words and phrases.

If you have any questions regarding interpreter services, please contact Nancy Stevens, Patient Representative at the LVHC site, at 776-8222, or Maryanne Falcone, Patient Representative at TAH site, at 778-2486. Both Patient Representatives may also be reached through the page operator at 776-8999.

Congratulations!

Samuel W. Criswell, Jr., D.P.M., podiatrist, was recently informed that he successfully passed both parts of the 1991 Foot Surgery certification examination and has now become a Diplomate of the American Board of Podiatric Surgery with Certification in Foot Surgery.

Thomas D. Meade, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, has fulfilled all the requirements for certification by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and is now a Diplomate of the Board.

In addition, Dr. Meade recently volunteered his time to the medical staff of the Tenth Keystone State Games held in the Lehigh Valley. He was also a participant and won a gold and two silver medals in the Masters Swimming Butterfly and Freestyle events.



Peter F. Rovito, M.D., general surgeon, and his wife, Donna, welcomed their first baby on August 19. Peter Vincent weighed 6 lbs., 1 1/4 oz. at birth.



Glen H. Tinkoff, M.D., general surgeon, and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their second child on August 12. Andrea Elizabeth weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and was 20 inches long. She has a two year old brother Gregory.

Publications, Papers and Presentations

Peter A. Keblish, M.D., chief of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery, recently testified to the FDA Orthopedic Panel on the Unicompartamental Configuration of the New Jersey LCS System. Dr. Keblish has been one of the principal investigators of the meniscal bearing cementless partial knee replacement for the past 11 years. TAH--LVHC has been one of the seven major centers in the country to participate in the investigational study, which culminated with full Orthopedic Panel review.

Lester Rosen, M.D., colon and rectal surgeon and chairman of the Surgical Research Committee, was interviewed for a feature article titled, **Laser Surgery: Too Much, Too Soon?**, which appeared in the August, 1991 issue of **Consumer Reports**.

HealthCounts News

Free Public Lectures

HealthCounts, the employee and community wellness program of The Allentown Hospital--Lehigh Valley Hospital Center, will present a series of programs and lectures concerning health promotion and disease prevention.

The free public lectures for October, sponsored by the Chronic Disease Education Committee of TAH--LVHC, include:

Obesity: Implications and Interventions will be presented on Wednesday, October 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. Dean F. Dimick, M.D., endocrinologist, will discuss metabolism and the genetics of obesity as well as the medical and surgical interventions for obesity.

Anorexia and Bulimia will be presented on Wednesday, October 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. Marlene Finkelstein, LSW, psychotherapist, and Rita Valenti, MA, psychotherapist, will provide an overview of anorexia and bulimia as well as the signs and symptoms of food addiction. The treatment and recovery process will also be discussed.

Overview: Heart Healthy Nutrition will be presented on Wednesday, October 30, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. Herbert L. Hyman, M.D., gastroenterologist, and Jane E. Ziegler, M.S., R.D., Director, Clinical Nutrition Services, will discuss the important link between diet and health and how to eat wisely and economically. Dietary guidelines will be reviewed for preventative and post-care measures.

In addition to these free lectures, HealthCounts offers a number of classes and programs for weight control, stress management, and smoking cessation which may benefit your patients.

For more information regarding these and other programs, please call HealthCounts at 821-2150.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Regional Symposium Series

Fourth Annual Coagulation Symposium: Thrombosis and Antithrombotic Therapies will be held on Friday, September 20, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. After attending this program, each participant will be able to list analytes used in diagnosing thrombosis, describe fibrinolysis' role in thrombosis, list at least three thrombolytic agents used to deal with thrombosis, and discuss the pharmacology of heparin and heparin derivatives.

The program will benefit physicians, medical technologists, and laboratory administrators.

Fourth Annual Cardiovascular Nursing Seminar: New Beats in Cardiology will be held on Wednesday, September 25, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. This one-day seminar will feature a nationally known speaker, author, and researcher on holistic nursing. Experts will present the most current trends in the care of the cardiovascular patient. This seminar is designed for medical/surgical and critical care nurses and allied health professionals desiring to enhance their cardiovascular knowledge.

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

Third Annual Neuroscience Symposium: New Directions in Neurological Therapeutics will be held on Friday, October 4, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. After attending this program, each participant will be able to present current research findings in the neurological conditions/diseases of headache, brain tumors, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy; discuss the impact of these findings upon modern day treatment of these conditions/diseases; and discuss the appropriate use and utility of interventional radiography. This program will benefit physicians, nurses, and other health care workers concerned with neurological diseases.

Rheumatoid Arthritis: Diagnosis and Management will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. After attending this program, each participant will be able to state the benefits and risks of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in the treatment of rheumatoid patients, list two disease modifying agents in treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, describe the role of orthopedics in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and describe the pathophysiology and diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. This program will benefit family practitioners, general practitioners, general internists, nurses, dietitians, and other health care professionals interested in rheumatoid arthritis.

For more information regarding the above conference, please contact Human Resource Development at 776-8322.

Medical Grand Rounds

Hepatitis will be presented by Clifford Brass, M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, on September 24.

Neuromuscular Disease will be presented by Neil W. Culligan, M.D. neurologist, TAH--LVHC, on October 1.

Newer Concepts of Mechanical Ventilation will be presented by Herb Patrick, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Jefferson College, Philadelphia, on October 8.

Health Care Law will be presented by Atty. Reed Hamilton, Philadelphia, on October 15.

Medical Grand Rounds are held every Tuesday at noon in the Auditorium of the LVHC site. For more information, contact the Department of Medicine at 776-8200.

Department of Pediatrics Conferences

Endocrinology for the Pediatrician will be presented by Angelo DiGeorge, M.D., Professor Emeritus, Temple University School of Medicine, on September 27.

Clinical Case Presentation of Emergency Nature will be presented by Eric Sundel, M.D.,

Director, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Hahnemann University Hospital, on October 11.

Department of Pediatrics Conferences are held every Friday at noon in the Auditorium of TAH site. For more information, contact Beverly Humphrey in the Department of Pediatrics at 778-2540.

Physician Office Practice Forum

The next Physician Office Practice Forum has been scheduled for Monday, September 30, from noon to 2 p.m., in the Auditorium of the LVHC site.

Topics to be discussed include **Digital Dictation System Update**, which will be presented by Zelda B. Greene, Manager, Medical Transcription Services, and **Legal Issues Update for the Physician's Office Staff**, which will be presented by Janine Fiesta, J.D., B.S.N., Senior Vice President, Legal Services/Risk Management.

This program will benefit members of the Medical Staff and their office personnel.

For more information or to register, please contact Janet M. Laudenslager, Coordinator, Physician Office Practice Services (POPS), at 778-2780.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The future belongs to those who believe in their abilities."

Surgical Research Committee to Sponsor Symposium at Lehigh University

The Surgical Research Committee of TAH--LVHC is sponsoring a symposium on Surgical Bioprosthesis and Current Technological Developments to be presented at Lehigh University for their Biology and Engineering students and faculty on Wednesday, November 13. Representatives from each of the 12 divisions within the Department of Surgery will participate in the symposium.

The Surgical Research Committee is committed to promoting clinical excellence and quality through its support of retrospective clinical studies, prospective clinical investigations, and basic scientific research. Several members of the Department of Surgery are presently involved in coordinated research efforts with Lehigh University faculty.

Physician Practice Opportunities

* Monday and Wednesday morning slots are currently available for the Brown Bag suite at Kutztown Professional Center.

* Kutztown Professional Center is planning a 5,500 square feet addition for Fall, 1991. Office suites available will include medical, dental, legal, and professional.

* Office Space Available - Share large medical office near LVHC. Fully furnished and staffed. Multiple line phone system. Computerized billing available.

For more information on these practice opportunities, contact John W. Hart, Vice President, at 776-8968.

* For Sale - Medical-Professional Office Building on Cedar Crest Boulevard, just minutes from both The Allentown Hospital and Lehigh Valley Hospital Center sites. Plenty of parking. Ideal for physician.

* Office space available to share. Private entrance. Ideal for psychiatrist, psychologist, surgeon, etc. New addition, available Fall, 1991, at 825 N. Cedar Crest Boulevard, Allentown.

* Specialty practice time-share space available in a comprehensive health care facility. Riverside Professional Center, 4019 Wynnewood Drive, Laurys Station. Half- or full-day slots immediately available.

* Temporary office space available on first floor of Fairgrounds Medical Center, 400 N. 17th Street, Allentown. 380 square feet for one- or two-year lease. Private entrance.

For more information, contact Joe Pilla, POPS Representative, at 778-2780.

Our Quality Policy

Our commitment is to quality in everything we do. This can only be achieved if we provide services that conform to clearly understood requirements. We are dedicated to continuous improvements in our work processes. Our approach is based on "Prevention" and the concept of "Do it right the first time."

Equal Opportunity Employer
M/F/H/V

WHO'S NEW

The Who's New section of *Medical Staff Progress Notes* contains an update of new appointments, address changes, newly approved privileges, etc.

Please remember that each department or unit is responsible for updating its directory, rolodexes, and approved privilege rosters.

Medical Staff

Appointments

Kenneth A. Bernhard, MD

(Cardiology Associates of Lehigh Valley)
3340 Hamilton Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 433-6442
Department of Medicine
Division of Internal Medicine
Section of Cardiology
Provisional Active

David L. Clair, MD

(Arthur E. Fetzer, MD)
1230 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Suite 302
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 770-0616
Department of Surgery
Division of Urology
Provisional Active

Douglas C. Cline, MD

(Emergency Care Associates of Allentown)
LVHC/Emergency Department
1200 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18105
(215) 776-8130
Department of Emergency
Medicine
Division of Emergency Medicine
Provisional Active

Linda L. Lapos, MD

1230 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Suite 303
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 778-1095
Department of Surgery
Division of Colon/Rectal Surgery
Provisional Active

Brian K. Long, MD

(Psychiatric & Counseling Associates, PC
- John F. Mitchell, MD)
1259 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Suite 326
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 435-8545
Department of Psychiatry
Provisional Courtesy

Stephen J. Motsay, MD

(Trexlerstown Community Health Center)
6802 Hamilton Blvd.
Trexlerstown, PA 18087
(215) 395-1924
Department of Medicine
Division of Family Practice
Provisional Active

Louis E. Spikol, MD

(McGorry & Neumann)
Allentown Medical Center
401 N. 17th Street
Suite 105
Allentown, PA 18104
(215) 432-2013
Department of Medicine
Division of Family Practice
Provisional Courtesy

John D. VanBrakle, MD

Chairman, Department of
Pediatrics
TAH--LVHC/Department of
Pediatrics
1627 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(215) 778-2540
Department of Pediatrics
Division of General Pediatrics

Change of Status

Donald B. Kopenhaver, MD
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology
From Active to Courtesy

Change of Department

Norman C. Kramer, MD

From Department of Pathology
to Department of Medicine
Division of Internal Medicine
Section of General Internal
Medicine
(with privileges in Pathology)
Provisional Consulting

Resignations

Thomas J. Martin MD

(Lehigh Valley Nephrology Associates)
Department of Medicine
Division of Internal Medicine
Section of Nephrology

Stephen S. Robb, MD

Department of Medicine
Division of Family Practice

Termination

Gregory M. Lang, MD

Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

Practice Name Change

Effective September 23, 1991, Cardiology Associates of Lehigh Valley will change its practice name to Cardiology Care Specialists. This change will be made in the H.I.S. system as of September 23 and, therefore, the former practice name will not be recognized by the computer system after this date. Members of the practice include: Bruce J. Silverberg, MD, David B. Goldner, MD, D. Lynn Morris, MD, Bruce A. Feldman, DO, Luis Constantin, MD, J. Patrick Kleaveland, MD, Melvin H. Schwartz, MD, and Kenneth A. Bernhard, MD.

Allied Health Professionals

Appointments

Susan T. Phifer, BSN
Physician Extender
Professional - RN
(Gastroenterology Associates, Ltd.)

Nadine Shelepak, PA-C
Physician Extender
Physician Assistant
(JC Rex Thoracic Surgery Group, Ltd.)

Resignations

Lisa H. Fegley, RN
Physician Extender
Professional - RN
(Cardiology Associates of Lehigh Valley)

David Huntoon, CRNA
Physician Extender
Professional - CRNA
(TAH Anesthesiology Department)

Catherine A. Mulutzie, RN
Physician Extender
Professional - RN
(Cardiology Associates of Lehigh Valley)

Bonnie L. Stivers
Physician Extender
Technical
Dental Assistant
(Marsha A. Gordon, DDS)

Medical Staff Progress Notes is published monthly to inform TAH-LVHC Medical Staff and employees of important issues concerning the Medical Staff. Articles should be submitted to Janet M. Laudenslager, Coordinator, Physician Office Practice Services, TAH site, by the first of each month. Articles may also be faxed to her at 778-2867. If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please call Ms. Laudenslager at 778-2780.



P & T HIGHLIGHTS

The Allentown Hospital - Lehigh Valley Hospital Center
PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

James Giardina, R.Ph., M.S. - Editor

The following actions were taken at the August 12, 1991 Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meeting.

DRUG USE EVALUATION - A CLOSER LOOK AT ONDANSETRON

The Committee accepted a report on Ondansetron (Zofran) usage in ambulatory patients. Key findings included:

- all patients received it for acceptable indications
- doses were within normal range
- the majority of patients (65%) received only one dose
- adverse effects were minimal
- outcome was unevaluable due to lack of documentation in the patient record

It was recommended that the report be forwarded to Oncology for review and follow-up, if necessary.

NEW ON FORMULARY

Levonorgestrel (Norplant, Wyeth-Ayerst) - a progestational implantable contraceptive indicated for long term (up to 5 yrs.) reversible contraception. Levonorgestrel is surgically implanted into the patient's arm under the skin. Insertion and removal is a minor surgical procedure. As with other oral progestational only agents, the main side effect is a change in bleeding pattern, which includes more frequent and irregular bleeding episodes, spotting between periods and amenorrhea. Many of the bleeding problems diminish during the first several months and improve especially after the first year. Pregnancy rates have been found to be 0.4 per 100 woman-years during the first three years of use. Approximately 20% of the failures are ectopic pregnancies, which probably result from Levonorgestrel's inhibition of tubal mobility. Overall, however, Levonorgestrel results in fewer ectopic pregnancies when compared to the population, in general.

Fentanyl Transdermal System (Duragesic, Janssen) - a topical system designed to deliver a continuous rate of fentanyl over the life of the patch. It was approved for a 3 month evaluation. It is indicated for management of chronic pain in patients requiring opioid analgesia. The patches come in four strengths (Table 1) which correlate to the average hourly release rates. Steady state serum concentrations are reached in 12-24 hours and decline gradually following removal, falling approximately 50% in the first 17 hours. Adverse reactions and drug interactions are consistent with those seen with opioid analgesics.

When given concurrently with CNS depressants, doses of either drugs should be decreased by at least 50% and then retitrated.

The patch is designed to be applied to a hairless area on the upper chest. Hair at the application site may be clipped, but should not be shaved. If the area requires cleansing prior to application of the patch, only clear water should be used, and the area should be allowed to dry completely. Following removal, the patch should be folded so that the adhesive side adheres to itself, and the system should be immediately flushed down the toilet. If any gel from the patch should accidentally contact the skin, the area should be washed with clear water.

Unless the patient has preexisting opioid tolerance, the initial dose should be the 25 mcg/hour patch (Table 2). After three days, the dose may be increased as necessary based upon the amount of supplemental short-acting analgesics required for pain control. It may take up to six days to reach equilibrium after any dosage changes; therefore, further dosage increases should not occur more frequently than every six days. Patches can be worn for 72 hours in the majority of patients, although a small number of patients may require a new patch every 48 hours.

Fentanyl Transdermal is classified as a schedule II controlled substance.

Table 1: Fentanyl Transdermal Strengths

Product Distributor	Dose (mcg/hr)	System size (cm ²)	Fentanyl content (mg)	How Supplied
c # Duragesic-25 (Janssen)	25	10	2.5	In cartons containing 5 individually packaged systems ²
c # Duragesic-50 ² (Janssen)	50	20	5	
c # Duragesic-75 ² (Janssen)	75	30	7.5	
c # Duragesic-100 ² (Janssen)	100	40	10	

² For use only in opioid tolerant patients
³ 0.2% alcohol is released during use

Table 2

Fentanyl Transdermal Dose Based on Daily Morphine Equivalence Dose ¹		
Oral 24 hour morphine (mg/day)	IM 24 hour morphine (mg/day)	Fentanyl transdermal (mcg/hr)
45-134	8-22	25
135-224	23-37	50
225-314	38-52	75
315-404	53-67	100
405-494	68-82	125
495-584	83-97	150
585-674	98-112	175
675-764	113-127	200
765-854	128-142	225
855-944	143-157	250
945-1034	158-172	275
1035-1124	173-187	300

¹ A 10 mg IM or 60 mg oral dose of morphine every 4 hours for 24 hours (total of 60 mg/day IM or 360 mg/day oral) was considered approximately equivalent to fentanyl transdermal 100 mcg/hr