

update

Vol. 7, No. 2

March 29, 1984

FlexPac - for the past few weeks you've been seeing posters around the hospital telling you to watch for it. Many of you are wondering what it's all about.

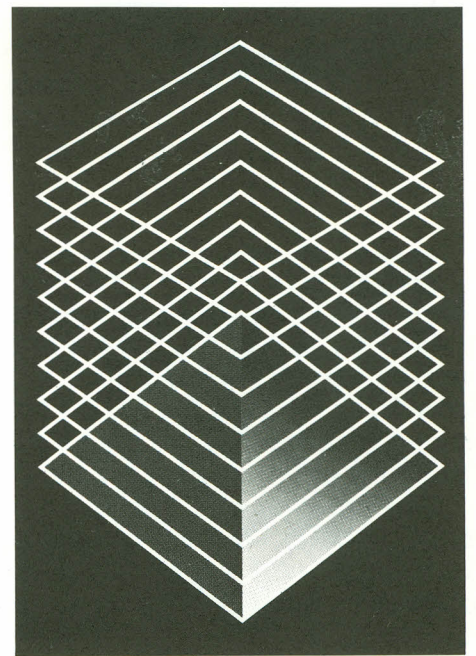
Quite frankly, that was our intention. To get you wondering. To get you involved. Because what it's all about is you, your benefits, and choices. Choices which you get to make about your benefits.

It's a new idea in benefits programs. Some people call it flexible benefits or cafeteria benefits. Here at the Hospital Center and at The Allentown Hospital, we call it FlexPac.

The idea behind FlexPac is to give you choices - choices about the benefits you receive. It lets you tailor your benefits program to meet your needs.

Until last week, this new program was scheduled to begin June 1. Then the unexpected happened. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) came out with a set of proposed regulations for flexible benefits programs. And as a result, we have had to shelve our plans to implement FlexPac for the time being.

Why? Because these regulations, if they are adopted as the IRS proposed them, may make flexible benefits programs impractical. Right now the benefits you receive aren't considered taxable income. But under



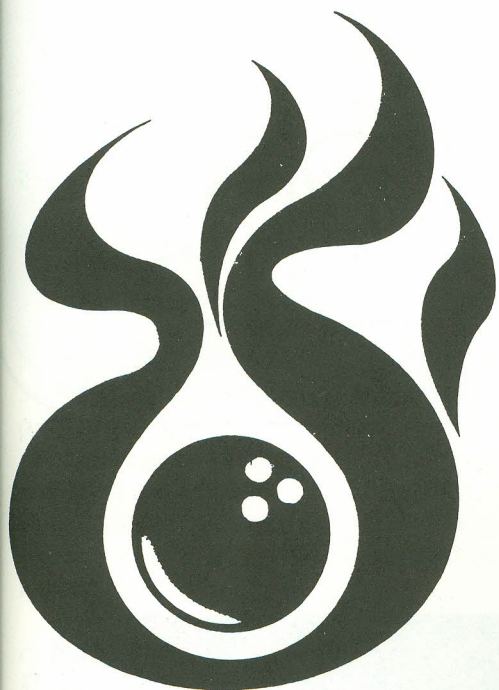
these proposed regulations, certain benefits would be taxable income if they are offered under a flexible program.

So it doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to start FlexPac now. We need to see what regulations are finally adopted by the IRS. If they make flexible benefits taxable income, there doesn't seem to be much of a point in going to a flexible program.

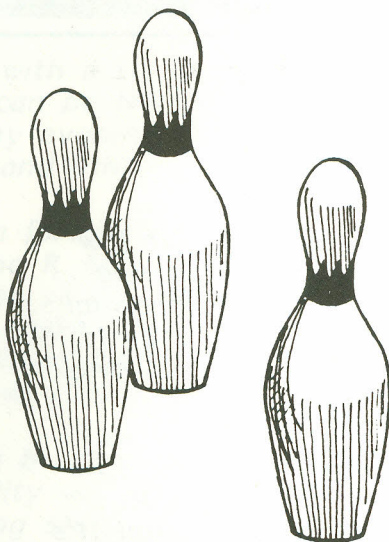
Keep in mind that these regulations are proposed. They haven't been adopted. We need to convince the IRS to adopt regulations which don't defeat the purpose of flexible benefits programs. And fortunately we're not alone in this effort.

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FLEXPAC



Tournament gets rolling



For all you frustrated bowlers who can never seem to find an open lane, here's your chance. The Burn Foundation has kicked off its second annual Bowl and Share Tournament at Jordan Lanes.

The tournament, which raised \$6,500.00 for the Burn Foundation last year, is open to anyone interested. Participants enter the

tournament in teams of two and may bowl at 9:00 P.M., on any Monday, Wednesday, or Sunday from now until April 29. Bowling times will also be available at 12:30 P.M. on the first four Mondays in April. And for those who can't bowl at any of these times, special times can be arranged through Jordan Lanes.

Each team pays an entry fee of \$13.00 for a set of three games. Teams may enter as many times as they wish but may only win one prize. Individuals may also switch teams and enter an unlimited number of times.

The size and number of prizes for the tournament will depend on the number of entries. There will be one prize for every ten entries and first prize will be as high as \$550.00 if the tournament reaches its goal of 600 entries.

Anyone interested in entering can pick up an application form at Jordan Lanes, the Burn Foundation Office, or the Hospital Center's public relations office. The completed entry forms must be submitted to Jordan Lanes at least 48 hours before the requested bowling time.

In addition to the tournament, the Burn Foundation will be running a raffle to raise funds. Tickets cost \$1.00 individually or \$5.00 for a book of six and they are available through the Burn Foundation or public relations. First prize in the raffle will be a 19" color television, second prize will be \$200.00, and third prize will be \$100.00. The winners will be picked at the tournament's conclusion on April 29 and you don't have to be present to win.

FlexPac

(Continued from page 1)

After the IRS came out with their proposed regulations, major firms such as Pepsi, Bethlehem Steel, The Cleveland Clinic, Merrill-Lynch, and The Sun Company had to put plans to change their benefits programs on hold. They and many other companies are trying to get the IRS to adopt more reasonable regulations.

What can you do to help? You can write to your Congressman. You can write to John Chapoteon who is

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy or to Senator Robert Dole, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. You can write to Roscoe Eggar who is Commissioner of the IRS or to Daniel Rostenkowski, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

All of these people are in a position to get action. Tell them how you feel. Tell them about the need for flexible benefits programs. Tell them to insure that the new IRS regulations are fair and supportive of your rights to flexible benefits. Addresses for these people and sample letters are available in the personnel and public relations offices.

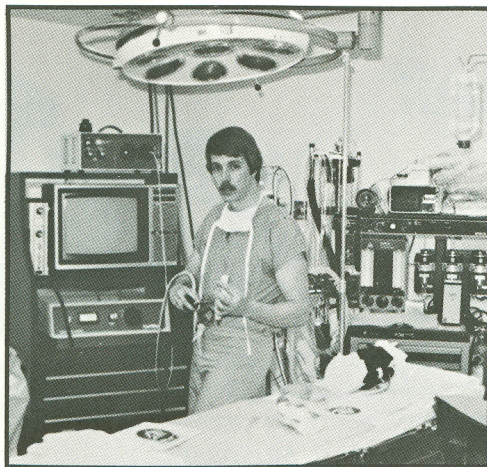
We will keep you up to date with changes as they occur. We will also let you know if a new implementation date for FlexPac is set.

300 tour expanded unit

It must have seemed strange to the short procedure unit staff members. The unit's operating and recovery rooms were full of people in street clothes.

The occasion? An open house marking completion of the short procedure expansion project. During the open house, nearly 300 people from all over the hospital were treated to tours and discussions about procedures performed within the unit.

The short procedure unit makes it possible for patients to come in for certain medical and surgical procedures and then go home the same day. The expansion project was necessary because demand for ambulatory services continues to increase.

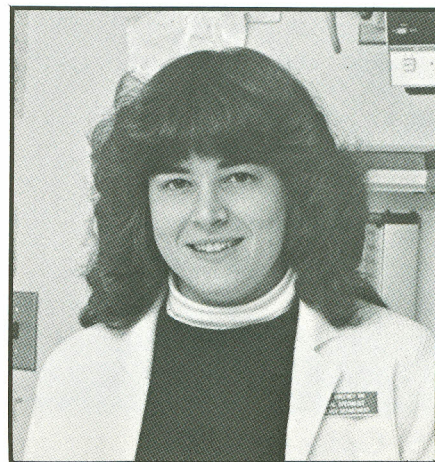


John M. Holley, R.N., discusses use of new operating room.

Expansion of the unit's capacity by 50% will allow us to help meet this increasing demand. The unit now has three operating rooms instead of two. There is a new recovery room with five beds instead of three. And there are 22 patient recovery stations throughout the unit instead of 14.

Clinical specialist joins staff

The emergency department has a new clinical specialist. She is EILEEN SWEENEY, R.N., M.S.N. Sweeney joined our emergency department after completing the course work for her master's degree in burn, emergency, and trauma nursing at Widener University in Chester, PA. She received her bachelor of science degree in nursing at Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales.



Eileen Sweeney, R.N., M.S.N.

As clinical specialist for the emergency department, Sweeney has a variety of responsibilities. She assists with new staff orientation. She helps coordinate ongoing educational programs for the emergency department and MedEvac staffs to help them keep up with the rapid changes occurring in emergency and trauma nursing. She helps review, revise, and recommend policies and procedures for the department. She is helping to develop community outreach programs and is also involved in a number of research projects.

Spring Fling date set

SPRING: the season between winter and summer
FLING: a period devoted to self-indulgence

According to Webster's Dictionary, the Spring Fling, scheduled for Friday, April 13, follows the definition.

This year, the third annual event will be held at the Holiday Inn West, Route 309 and 22, Allentown, and will begin with a happy hour

at 7:00 P.M. Wine, beer, and soda are included in the cost of the ticket, and a cash bar will be available. After an hour of socializing with your friends, join us for a delicious dinner buffet from 8:00-9:30 P.M. The menu for the buffet includes:

*Bowl of Fruit Selections
Tossed Salad with choice of dressing
Potato and 3 Bean Salads
Assorted Relishes
Stuffed Flounder
London Broil
Rigatoni
Parsleyed Buttered Potatoes
Peas and Carrots
Assorted Rolls and Bread
Selection of Desserts
Coffee and Tea*

From 9:30 P.M.-1:30 A.M., you can use up some of the calories you put on at dinner by dancing to the sounds of "Chaparral."

Date set for new shock / trauma unit dedication

Despite the picketers who greeted us in the fall and some unusually bitter weather around Christmas, the new shock/trauma unit will be finished on schedule. With the project rapidly nearing completion, the weekend of March 30-April 1 has been set for the new unit's dedication and open house.

The festivities will begin on Friday with a series of special employee previews so that you can be the first to see the completed unit. Then on Friday evening there will be an open house for ambulance corps and other first responders.

On Saturday morning there will be a formal dedication ceremony. The featured speaker will be R Adam Cowley, M.D., Director of the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems and generally considered the father of the trauma center concept. Featured with him will be H. Arnold Muller, M.D., Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health.

On Sunday afternoon, the doors will be opened to the general public. Tours of the new facility will be conducted by members of the shock/trauma nursing staff.

Friday, March 30

Special Employee Previews

2:00-4:00 A.M. - night shift reception and tours

11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. - day shift reception and tours

4:30-6:00 P.M. - evening shift reception and tours

First responders

7:30-9:30 P.M. - tours and reception

Saturday, March 31

10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon -
Formal dedication ceremony

Sunday, April 1

2:00-4:00 P.M. - Public tours

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