

# CHECKUP

Volume 3, No. 23 Feb. 8, 1991

## JCAHO Process Moves To Next Phase

A number of quality improvement projects have been identified and targeted for action by the team preparing TAH—LVHC for accreditation processes later this year.

A multi-disciplinary committee, representing the full spectrum of hospital services, used a software package that simulates what the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) will review during the formal survey.

The software, known as "Ready Or Not", allows managers to become familiar with JCAHO standards and measure performance against those stan-

dards. It then serves to evaluate specific areas and produce a weighted score for the entire hospital. More importantly it offers specific priority actions for improvement based on responses given by those using it.

In using the software, committee members were encouraged to be "brutally honest" in tangling with the more than 2,000 standards JCAHO checks during an accreditation survey.

The total weighted score for all areas demonstrates the need for continuous improvement.

First results suggest two basic areas of interest: physical plant, especially in

terms of heightened safety standards in recent years, and an assortment of policies and procedures described as relatively simple to organize.

What is not so simple is employee education on policy and procedure. Barbara Salvadore, Administration, who heads the steering committee, says that not only will JCAHO be interested in knowing if the proper policy is in place, but also whether knowledge of it has been transmitted to and is understood and followed by employees.

"For example," she says, "JCAHO will certainly visit the library and see if

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## Coping With War

### Support Group For Relatives Organizes

A support group for employees with relatives serving in the Persian Gulf is being organized by members of the nursing staff, Pastoral Care and hospital administration.

The Concern Sharing Forum is designed to help employees interact with one another and identify areas where support is needed. Meetings have been scheduled for Feb. 12, 19, 26 and March 5 in the Pastoral Care conference room at LVHC site and in the School of Nursing auditorium at TAH site.

Joan Collette, RN, one of the organizers, says the location of the meetings is subject to change within each site and that it's best to check with information desks to verify locations.

Additional information about the group is available from Collette at ext. 1725.

In the meantime, Pastoral Care invites all employees to "Prayer for Peace" meditation services held Monday through Friday from noon to 12:15 p.m. in the meditation room at TAH site and the chapel at LVHC site.

## Winners Named In Puncture Test

A total of 21 hospital employees won home fire extinguishers in a contest run by a multidisciplinary team measuring knowledge of puncture wound hazards.

The contest included a seven-question quiz designed to help determine the cause of 161 puncture wounds in five months.

All the winners had no more than one wrong answer.

They include: Geri Klem, RN, Nursing Administration; Vivien Gollatz, Blood Bank; Sandra Fisher, RN, 5T (TAH); Clyde Leonard III, Food and

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The Allentown  
Hospital—  
Lehigh Valley  
Hospital Center

A HealthEast Hospital

## On The Move

Paul E. Nurick, executive vice president and COO, Hospital Services, and administrative assistant Kathy Marth have moved from their offices at 50 College Drive to the 1st floor at TAH site. His new telephone number is ext. 9500.

Kay Tricano, assistant to the president, has moved from 50 College Drive to LVHC site, on the staff of Samuel R. Huston, president and CEO.

Mary Anne K. Keyes, senior vice president, Nursing, and her secretary, Linda Moyer, have moved from LVHC site to TAH site, and their new telephone number is ext. 9510.

Elisabeth Williamson, director, Friends of Nursing, has moved from LVHC site to Nursing Administration, TAH site. Her new telephone number is ext. 9515.

## Planning Research? Review Deadline Nears

The Research Advisory Committee meets again on April 24 to review clinical/epidemiological research proposals submitted by the medical and professional staff of TAH—LVHC. Deadlines for proposals is April 10 for review at the meeting. For additional information and proposal guidelines, contact the Research Department at ext. 8889.

*CheckUp* is a biweekly publication of the Communications Department of HealthEast / The Allentown Hospital—Lehigh Valley Hospital Center. To submit an article or for additional information, call ext. 7916.

### 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 improvement 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*

# Team Effort Wins Praise After Magic Years Blaze

Quick action by several hospital departments turned chaos into adventure for 80 youngsters at Magic Years Day Care Center, near TAH site.

Although a Jan. 15 fire in the center's kitchen stove did no damage to the facility, the yellow powder residue from fire extinguishers and the required visit by the Allentown Fire Department disrupted the day care center.

Sue Reinke, director, Human Resources, the hospital's liaison with the day care programs, coordinated departments to assist with the aftermath.

Security escorted the 80 children across the street to the School of Nursing for temporary housing in the maternal and childbirth education classroom and assisted at the scene.

A crew from Engineering removed the stove and found a loaner in Archives, and secured electrical wiring in the center.

Much appreciated by the center staff was a team from General Services that in two hours time cleaned the facility from top to bottom. "It would have taken us a week," says Mary Schuster, director of Magic Years.

But what the children found best of all was a contribution from Food Service — 80 sack lunches that included peanut butter sandwiches, fruit and chocolate milk.

"We were still collecting our thoughts about the immediate situation," Schuster relates, "and here was Sue (Reinke) asking if any of the children had allergies

to particular foods." One child got a specially made cheese sandwich, while others received juice instead of milk as a result of information provided by Magic Years.

Reinke lauded Food Service for responding so quickly and making it all an adventure for the children. "For them it was better than going to an amusement park," she adds.

Schuster offers gratitude from the Magic Years staff to all the hospital employees who had the entire mess cleaned up and the children back in the center less than three hours after the fire. "Everyone was just wonderful," she says.

About 45 percent of the children are dependents of hospital employees, and Magic Years has a long-term contract with the hospital for day care service. TAH—LVHC owns part of the building and Magic Years the balance.

## JCAHO Process...

*Continued from Page 1*

things are correctly organized. However, they will also tap people on the shoulders in the halls and ask if they have any problems when they need an article or information from the library." That's what makes the process so sweeping, and Salvadore urges managers preparing for the accreditation visit to use "lots of staff meetings," to broaden understanding of JCAHO requirements and the possibility of individual participation in the survey process.

In addition to three more encounters with the software offered at Information Services, a mock survey is planned, possibly in May, which will be done by an outside vendor.

The committee's goal is to be accredited with commendation through zero defects — a formidable task in a project of this scale.

Finally, the approach to accreditation remains the same: it's using the standards as a measurement of an ongoing quality process and not cramming for a one-time final exam.

## Activities Committee Plans Spring Bazaar

The annual spring bazaar sponsored by TAH—LVHC Employee Activities Committee will be held in the lobby at LVHC site on Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22.

As space is limited, participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Employees wishing to sell handcrafted items at the bazaar should contact Sharon Bartz at ext. 8480.

## Office Athletes Sought For Olympix

A call for arm-chair athletes is challenging TAH—LVHC to organize a team to participate in the WZZO Workforce Olympix that will benefit the Lehigh Valley Easter Seal Society.

The April 24 event hopes to attract 60 teams of five individuals to compete for trophies in six events, including:

- Floppy Discus Throw
- Wastebasket Ball
- Five O'Clock Dash

T-shirts, a buffet and beverages will be provided to all participants, and there will be additional prizes for top individual and team fund raising, as well as the most unique costumes.

Team registration is \$150, payable to Easter Seals. For information and registration, call Tracey Dudding at Easter Seals, 866-8092.

## Valentine Drive Aids Homeless

The hospital has been asked to participate in a community effort called "Campaign Valentine" to collect essential toiletry items for residents of shelters for the homeless in the Lehigh Valley.

Susan Hoffman, of HealthEast Development, says the purpose of the drive is to "send a signal to our community of commitment and concern."

Other participating companies include Air Products, Alpo, Binney & Smith, Chrysler First, Comfort Suites, Just Born Candies, Merchants Bank, Meridian Bank, The Morning Call and

PP&L.

The list of toiletry items compiled by the shelter providers are all items essential to personal hygiene but cannot be purchased with food stamps. They include toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, toilet paper and deodorant.

Hospital employees have been asked to supply deodorant, and participation is relatively simple. Purchase an extra, and deposit it in marked receptacles located in cafeterias at both sites.

The deadline is Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

## 'Celebration' At Macy's: April 30

The annual "Cause for Celebration" at Macy's Lehigh Valley will be held April 30 this year and will again benefit Friends of Nursing and Hospice, as well as a number of other civic and charitable causes.

A \$5 donation secures admission to the store for the special one-day event, a variety of discounts and participation in drawings. In addition, the \$5 ticket price and \$3 for every ticketholder attending is donated to specified charities. Those charities bringing in the most ticketholders can win another \$5,000 donation from Macy's.

Order forms are expected to be available in the next few weeks from the HealthEast Trust Fund, which is representing Friends of Nursing and Hospice at the event.

For the past two years, hospital employees have won major donation prizes from Macy's for both causes.

## Sticky Business: The Puncture Test

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Nutritional Services; Irene Reinert, Blood Bank; Laurie Rohrbach, Pathology; Mildred Rivera, ICU (TAH); Gloria Ferko, Stat Lab; Anita Lewis, RN, PACU (LVHC); Bert Hironimus, Pastoral Care; Joseph Long, Pastoral Care; Nancy Wigdahl, Pastoral Care; Heidi Schanta, 7B (LVHC), Cindy Hertzog, RN, SPU; Audrey Lauer, SPU; Danielle Ebert, 7B (LVHC); Kathie Keim, RN, RUM; Trish Weber, RN, RUM; Sharyn Klase, Medical Records; Will Mest, Mailroom; and Ann Marie Janis, Transcription Services.

And what were the correct answers?

Which one of the three reasons below cause the most puncture wounds to staff at TAH—LVHC? Needle sticks during surgery; starting an I.V. or puncture with something sharp other than a needle

*Thirty five percent of puncture wounds are caused by something sharp, but not a needle. This is followed by needle sticks during surgery (19 percent) and starting an IV or drawing blood (9 percent).*

I can get AIDS from any sharp object (not necessarily a needle) that has come into contact with a patient's blood.

*True. HIV may be transmitted by anything sharp that has been contaminated with an infected person's blood.*

Which of these activities are possible ways to receive a puncture wound? Leaving a syringe on a food tray; cleaning up a

dirty procedure tray covered with a towel, or removing sutures with a scissors. *All of the above are common ways people are injured in the institution*

During surgery, most puncture wounds occur during the passing of instruments.

*True. There are procedures and equipment being evaluated in the operating room to prevent puncture wounds from occurring.*

If I receive more than one puncture wound during the same surgery, it is not necessary to complete more than one TAH—LVHC Employee Incident Report.

*False. A HealthEast Employee Incident Report must be completed every time you are injured.*

Since I work in a non-clinical area, puncture wounds are not a potential hazard to me.

*False. Many employees from various departments receive puncture wounds each year, including departments such as General Services (from sharps accidentally discarded in trash) and clerical staff (from scissors and staples).*

A higher incidence of puncture wounds occurs during Days; Evenings or Nights.

*The most puncture wounds occur on days (62 percent) followed by evenings (26 percent) and nights (11 percent).*

# Nurses Cite 123 Peers As 'Outstanding'

A total of 123 nurses from 23 units were recognized by their peers for outstanding contributions to their units and to professional nursing practice.

The awards, which included a certificate and a monetary award, were developed under the Nursing Reward and Recognition program the first of its kind in the United States.

Participation was voluntary for the units, each of which had to formulate specific recognition criteria and determine percentage of staff to be recognized.

The winners included:

**Home Care** — Joan Farnschlager, Susan Spink, Darla Stevens, Joyce Wladek and Sally Zemlansky

**Ambulatory Clinics** — Jane Laudenslager

**Acute Coronary Care Unit** — Theresa Mylet, Barbara Supp, Karen Walczek and Debra Williston

**Short Stay Unit** — Joanne Bartelmo, Helene Bell, Dara Kardos, Marcia Lund, Judith Madaus, Ruth Rappaport, Wendy Robb and Pamela Seip

**Burn Center** — Emily Braun, Cindy Harwi, Nancy Humes, William Karpovich, Mary Ellen Nongle and Mary Jane Spatts

**6B (LVHC site)** — Frances Arenas, Lisa Boyle, Josephine Bydlon, Lucille Hillegass, Holly Reed, Susan Stefanick and Jeanette Zellner.

**Emergency (TAH site)** — Karen Brown, Eleanor Good, Penny Jacobs, Pat Rhoads and Norma Storer.

**OR (TAH site)** — Sandi Cherkis, Kay Fritch, Beverly Genetti, Diane Gochenauer, Joann Haros, Lenora Kroll and Sheryl Madgrigale.

**MedEvac** — Nan Miller and Gina Natale.

**ICU (West)** — Sandy Derbyshire, Kim Dologite, Joann Griswold, Karen Henninger, Diane Kocsis, Lisa Mikitka, Judy Strawdinger and Tina Van Buren.

**6C (LVHC Site)** — MaryAnn Embley, Jill Korn, Kathleen

Krause, Kathie McGonigal and LuAnn McKee.

**5B (LVHC site)** — Kelly Baatz, Susan Bilsak, Mary Durkin and Lisa Miller.

**CAPD** — Jean Rudderow.

**Dialysis** — Cathy Bachert, Michele Geiger and Sue Urban.

**Special Care Unit** — Mary Ann Bailey, Carol Buehlor, Robin Koch, Michelle Legins, Sue Phifer, Lori Reiner and Lorraine Valeriano.

**4A (LVHC site)** — Karen Boutron, Joyce Elinausky, Linda Pagoda and Joanne Rauscher.

**ICU - East** — Donna Neidermeier, Eileen Palmer, Sharyn Semmel, Vicki Trexler and Judy Yannone.

**4B (LVHC site)** — Eileen Keeney, Kathy Schneider, Mary Hartman Stone, Julie Westfall, O.K. Yoon.

**CNS Unit** — Beth Delin, Carol Fox, Rita Heintz, Patricia Klotz, Diane Kowalski and Marjorie Lavin.

**OR (LVHC site)** — Rebecca Caffrey, Patricia Cressman, Delores Duffy, Diana Dunkle, Diane Fink, Marlene Frassinelli, Donna Grimes, Mary Hurban, Kathryn Kowalewski, Marlene Leidy, Joanne Noe, Letha Perna, Virginia Roman, Diane Taylor and Rosemary Wimmer.

**Transitional Care Unit** — Deb Andrews, Sharon Steager, Monica Stevko and Kathleen Yanochko.

**ICU (TAH site)** — Kathy Baker, Linda Coy, Rosemary Gilbert, Kim Metzger and Sue Sanders.

**7C (LVHC site)** — Christine Allman, Monika Bruns, Cheryl Citro, Mary Beth Lang, Maria Ninan and Cindy Sensenig.

## Making The Rounds

**Diana Van Lieu**, Hemophilia Center (TAH site), graduated from Allentown Business School on Jan. 25. A recipient of the outstanding student award at graduation ceremonies, she received an associate degree in Legal, Secretarial and Stenography. Van Lieu is the daughter of **Bernice Myles, RN, Psychiatry**.

**Francine Miranda**, Risk Management assistant, was recently elected president of the Lehigh Valley Health Care Risk Management Association. The group is composed of 40 members from hospitals and insurance companies in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Eleven employees recently completed the 15-week medical terminology course offered by Human Resource Development. They included **Mary Trinkle**, Health Spectrum (HE); **Tammy Balliet**, 7C; **Susan Herman**, 4B; **Debra Marakovits**, SPD; **Jamie Stoudt**, Health Page; **Stacy Yonak**, Telecommunications (all LVHC site); **Barbara Fenner**; **Sharon Klase**, Medical Records; **Patricia Rupp**, Admitting; and **Elaine Scott**, Transport (all TAH site).

*Making The Rounds welcomes contributions from employees about professional achievement. Send news of your achievement to Communications, 50 College Drive, and be sure to identify your department and extension.*

## Credit Union

### Interest Rates

New Cars .....	10.4%	.....3 years, 5 percent down
New Cars .....	10.9%	.....4 years, 10 percent down
New Cars .....	11.4%	.....5 years, 20 percent down
Used Cars .....	12.3%	.....3 years maximum
Personal .....	12.9%	.....25 percent of shares
Personal .....	13.9%	.....10 percent of shares

### Business Hours

**LVHC Site** — Mondays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 3 to 7 p.m. **Phone: 776-8405.**  
**TAH Site** — Mondays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 1 to 5 p.m. **Phone: 778-9499.**

# Mainframers

## Yes, There Really Is Someone At The Other End Of The Line

A computer is a straightforward tool: put information in, get results out — and that's about all that most employees ever want to know.

Although computers are important tools in healthcare, they retain almost magical qualities despite being a device that routes electricity through miniscule mazes of off and on switches at high rates of speed.

If a personal computer is acting up, Information Services staffers make "house calls" and sort things out.

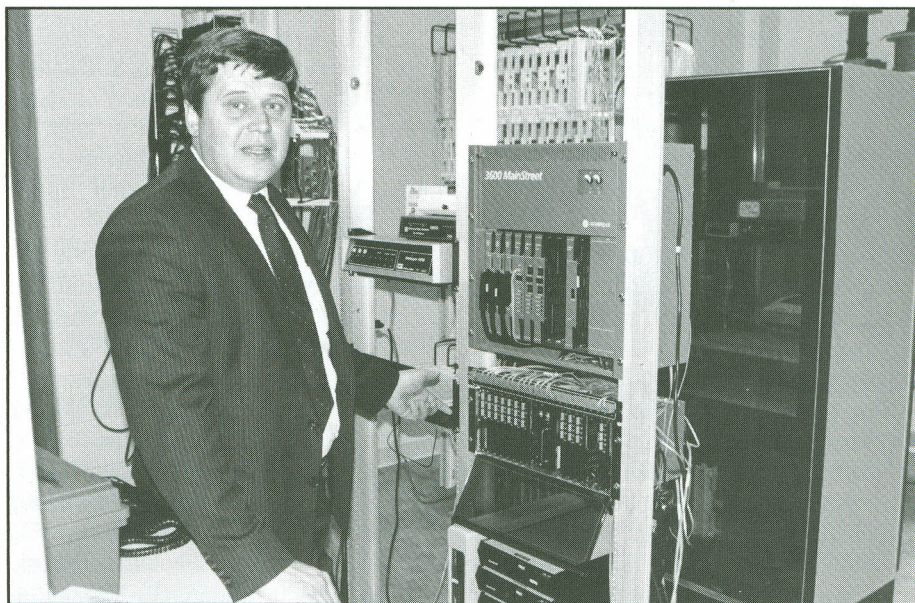
But the consequences of a glitch for the hundreds of users on the mainframe network are far more serious. The phrase "the system is down" sends chills through a select group of specialists who tend it around the clock, day in and day out.

**They work** at a console of a dozen monitors that looks like something out of mission control for space shots. Beyond them is a vast room that's dark most of the time. From that darkness is the constant drone of powerful cooling systems.

To one side is a vault, in which large magnetic reels of tape are stored, and to the other is a huge box that permits the mainframe computers to talk to each other. There are actually six mainframes, each with specific tasks, in the form of large beige blocks with varying color panels originally used to color-code specific tasks. They've been in service for the past 10 years.

**All of this** is located in the rear of an unmarked building on Lehigh Street. There's not even a conventional floor. Instead, pull-up panels allow access to huge snakes of gray cable lurking underneath.

What the computers do is help with a myriad of tasks, ranging from admitting patients to hospital beds to printing employee paychecks. The system's resources are constantly juggled. While Human Resources is on-line during the



*Frank Kaczynski, manager, computer operations, HEIS, explains an electronic funnel. This is where telephone lines connecting mainframes to the sites all come together, in and out, to serve more than 500 terminals for a wide variety of purposes.*

day, for example, the department is shut off at night to permit the system to run huge batches of data and even programs created for a single, specific purpose. One of the reasons is that it's slow and obsolete. Frank Kaczynski, manager, computer operations, says it plods along at only 4.5 million instructions per second. The standard today for the size of TAH—LVHC is 30 to 40 million.

What that translates into is felt by users at the terminals. If it seems a bit sluggish, it's because 100 or more people are all asking the computer to do a specific task at the same time.

About 500 terminals are on the system, and, of course, everyone on the network needs the information right now.

Essentially the system is used to gather data during the day and sort it all out at night. Data flow, for example,

leads to such things as hospital billing, statistical information important to planning and analysis, or all the paychecks for one of the hospital sites. The demands for information are so numerous that timing of data run at night is critical to within seconds of time.

There's one room off to the side that plays a major role. Up from the floor come dedicated telephone lines capable of handling 1.54 million bits of information per second — about 24 separate telephone conversations at the same time. These are the links between the hospital sites and the data center, the funnel through which patient information and the hours a staff nurse worked last Tuesday all flow.

At their console, teams continually scan the monitors. They don't eavesdrop on what any individual user is doing; they're getting cryptic commentary on the state of the system at any given

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**It plods along  
— at only  
4.5 million  
instructions per  
second.**

# Educational Opportunities

## HealthCounts

L.E.A.R.N.<sup>TM</sup> weight control is a 10-week multifaceted approach to successful weight control structured around your lifestyle. It is designed to help shed pounds and keep them off through positive approaches to change in lifestyle, exercise, attitudes, relationships and nutrition. Instructed by a registered dietitian, the second and third series of the year meet on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon at LVHC site President's Room. The series begins Feb. 19, and the registration deadline is Feb. 14. The fee for employees is \$90.

Smoking Cessation Hypnosis will be offered on Feb. 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in TAH site auditorium. The employee fee is \$10 and registration deadline is Feb. 8.

The Chronic Disease Education Committee is sponsoring four free lectures on the theme of "Managing Your Healthcare," all from 7 to 9 p.m. in LVHC site auditorium. Topics include "Accessing Healthcare Providers" on Feb. 18 and "Understanding Financial Medical Matters" on Feb. 25.

The next series, "Sleep Disorders" begins Feb. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. in LVHC site auditorium with presentations by John Galgon, MD, and John Harwick, MD, on "Snoring and Sleep Apnea". Programs in March will discuss insomnia and narcolepsy, and sleep disruption in shift workers.

## HRD Seminars

Fee is usually waived for staff affiliated with HealthEast and registration is

with Human Resource Development..

**Infectious Diseases** — The second annual symposium on infectious diseases will be held from March 9 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at LVHC site auditorium. Faculty includes Ellis S. Caplan, MD, of University of Maryland Medical Systems; William J. Holloway, MD, of the Medical Center of Delaware, and Luther V. Rhodes III, MD, chief, Infectious Diseases, TAH—LVHC.

**Hepatitis Update** — The second annual digestive sciences symposium at LVHC site auditorium will focus on hepatitis on March 23 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Faculty includes Ronald Domen, MD, Miller Memorial Blood Center; Lawrence Friedman, MD, Santiago Munoz, MD, and Paul Martin, MD, all of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Carl F. D'Angelo, MD, Herbert L. Hyman, MD; James Reed, PhD, and Luther Rhodes III, MD, all of TAH—LVHC.

**Assessment and Intervention Strategies for Normal and At-Risk Infants and Young Children**, featuring T. Berry Brazelton, MD, is a day-long seminar beginning at 7:45 a.m. on April 11. Other faculty include Stanley K. Turecki, MD, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; Timothy Jordan, MD, Dreikurs Relationship Center, St. Louis, Mo.; Judith S. Bloch, ACSW, Variety Pre-Schooler's Workshop, Syoset, N.Y.; and Russell B. Puschak, MD, chairman, TAH—LVHC Department of Pediatrics. Registration is by calling ext. 8322 and the fee for hospital employees is \$25.

## Information Services...

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moment. To a visitor, it's the sort of computer gobbledegook that is as intimidating as it is magical, and yet to the crew it's as clear as an EKG is to a cardiologist.

Are there real people at the other end of the line? Yes. Depending on the time of day or day of week, the operations crew includes Dan Bertha, Tim Bragg, Jeremy Driscoll, Victor Harwood IV, George Holtzer, Jude Horoski, Ed MacLellan, James Mohr, Bill Pitsko, Michael Solt, Kathy Stoute, Jane Taylor and Gary Weiser. The crews work three 12-hour days a week.

They are backed up by Bill Hnat, Millicent Schaffer and Barbara Stangl, who are specialty problemsolvers. Their days are never the same and the tasks always unexpected. From their office, they can reach through the system electronically to track malfunctions or handle special requests — a single patient bill that was not correctly produced, for instance.

As exotic and impressive as it looks, the current system is elemental when compared to what's on the horizon. Whole new computers are required for the software to meet the needs of patient care and Financial Services, as well as expansion of the system to many more users. It is very expensive, and under intense study and cautious deliberation. But medical technology marches on...even in an unmarked building on Lehigh Street.

## Benefits Spotlight

Disability insurance can sometimes be confusing and most employees don't pay attention until they have no choice.

Here's a summary of disability insurance available to full-time employees:

As a full-time employee with at least three months of service you are eligible for Short Term Disability benefits amounting to 50 percent of your salary. Short Term Disability begins with the 61st consecutive *work day* of disability or exhaustion of accumulated sick time, whichever is later. After you have been disabled for 180 *calendar days* you will be

eligible for long term disability, which is 60 percent of your salary.

When you become disabled, you will receive all benefits for six months. If you become eligible for long term disability, you receive health and dental insurance for 12 months at no cost.

Always refer to your employee handbook or contact your benefits counselor — Gerianne Keiser (LVHC site), ext. 8839; Maryjane Zanders (TAH site), ext. 2930; or Leilani Souders (HealthEast), ext. 7936.

# Kidney Transplant Surgeon Joins TAH—LVHC Medical Staff

Craig R. Reckard, MD, has joined the medical staff at TAH—LVHC as director of transplant services.

Most recently professor of surgery and chief, Loyola-Hines Transplantation Service, Maywood, Ill., Reckard is a native of southeastern Pennsylvania.

He is a graduate of Ursinus College and received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Reckard was an intern and surgical resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania before serving as a major in the Army Medical Corps at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

He later became an associate professor of surgery at the University of Chicago and professor of surgery at Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University of Chicago. He concurrently served as chief of the transplantation service at Hines Veterans Administration Hospital in Hines, Ill.

Reckard is a member of a number of professional societies and has served in



Craig R. Reckard, MD

a number of capacities on committees and task forces relating to organ transplantation.

He has published extensively on topics relating to transplantation, and says he was attracted to TAH—LVHC because it offers "a real opportunity to start a program from the ground up that has enthusiastic support of the departments of surgery and medicine and the hospital administration."

Reckard adds that he hopes to perform in the range of 30 to 40 kidney transplants annually as well as do clinical research.

## Fling's The Thing To Salute Spring

A sure harbinger of a change of seasons is the annual announcement of ticket sales for the Spring Fling, planned for April 19 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center.

The event is sponsored by the Employee Activities Committee and features a social hour, dinner and an evening of dancing.

A total of 800 tickets will go on sale April 1 through April 12 on a first-come, first-served basis. The price is \$12 per person. Ticket sales will be between 7 and 8 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays in the Anderson wing lobby at LVHC site and the main lobby at TAH site.

## The Hotline

*1. I am calling to complain about the disgusting conditions of TAH site parking lot following the recent snowstorm. Three people got stuck, tires were ruined and no one helped nurses while on the lot. I feel that if I have to come to work in these bad weather conditions, the least that could be done is that the parking lot be cleared off or salted.*

*2. I am concerned about the need for something to be done about the ice in the parking lot during the 3 to 11 shift. The lot is one sheet of ice.*

*3. The TAH site parking lot is a mess. Why can't someone put salt down or clear the lot in order to prevent an accident?*

Snow removal at TAH—LVHC is the responsibility of Engineering and an outside contractor. During a recent snowstorm, one salt truck at TAH site was temporarily out of commission. It is understandable that employees might become frustrated under these circumstances, and hospital management is sorry for the inconvenience.

Engineering is currently writing instructions for requesting assistance during and after a snowstorm. They will be printed in *CheckUp* in the near future.

*Have a question you'd like to see answered? Call The Hotline, ext. 2999, anytime and leave your inquiry. Please indicate your site.*

## Benefit Bake Sale Aids Kidney Fund

More than \$800 was raised as a result of a benefit bake sale sponsored by Newborn Nursery for the Joshua Howell Kidney Transplant Trust Fund. Nursery staff expressed appreciation to all who participated, and said another sale is planned for March 28, beginning at 7 a.m.

Those wishing to make donations to the fund may contact Janice Mayer at RUM/Discharge Planning, TAH site.

## Food Service Seeks Customer Opinions

As a means of learning customer requirements, suggestion and comment boxes have now been placed in cafeterias at both sites.

Carla Sweigart, assistant food service director, says the purpose of the boxes is to encourage employee and visitor comments on quality and to learn of requests for particular food offerings.

Meanwhile, winners in the recent Superbowl raffle were announced. They include Deb Sterner, Infection Control; G.H. Brucher, General Services; Faye Hays, 3T (TAH site) and Agnes Denardo, ACU.

Food Service will organize a special dessert bar on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

Pancakes in all their varieties will be celebrated from Feb. 25 to March 1, reports Sweigart, who adds that with the beginning of Lent on Feb. 13 meatless or seafood dishes will be on the menu on Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Congratulations!

**Kathy Gaugler**, technician, Cardiac Cath Lab, gave birth to a daughter on Jan. 5. Emily Elizabeth weighed 6 lbs., 6-1/2 oz. and was 19 inches long.

**Lee Phillips**, RN, Cardiac Cath Lab, gave birth to a daughter on Jan. 18. Jessica Nichole was 22 inches long and weighed 8 lbs., 12-1/2 oz.

**Alice Hemerly**, darkroom technician, Radiology (TAH), and her husband Dave became the parents of a son, Matthew David, on Dec. 1. He weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz., was 20-1/2 inches long, and has a 2-year-old brother, Christopher James.

**Miriam Morales**, Dietary (TAH site), became engaged to Horace E. Coleman on Sept. 21.

**Kathleen Bleiler**, RN, TCU, married David P. Kolkis on Dec. 22.

**Mary Fox**, Admitting (TAH site), became engaged to Richard McGinnis Jr. on Dec. 23.

*Congratulations! welcomes news of employee weddings, engagements and births of dependents. Send information to Communications, 50 College Drive. Be sure to include your daytime telephone number.*

## Nursing Scholarship Drawing Feb. 14

"Getting to the Heart of Nursing Education" is the theme of a Valentine's Day program at which a drawing will have nursing scholarships as prizes.

The Feb. 14 event is sponsored by the Friends of Nursing and the Professional Nurse Council (PNC). Drawings will be held at 9:30 a.m. in TAH site cafeteria and the Anderson Wing Lobby at LVHC site.

Two \$1,500 and two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Refreshments will be served.

### "Eveningcare" Openings Available At LVHC Site

The LVHC site day care center has openings for the 6 p.m. to midnight shift. Contact the center, ext. 8969, for more details.

The parents committee of the center wishes to thank both contributors and purchasers of baked goods at a recent benefit bake sale that raised funds for equipment and toys.

### Spectrum Apothecary Changes Business Hours

Between the time a recent Benefits Spotlight article was written and published, hours at Spectrum Apothecary changed slightly.

The pharmacy, located at 1230 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It's also open on Tuesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available from department heads and Nursing Administration offices. Application deadline is Feb. 8.

Among the sources of funds for the scholarships is the annual art auction, to be held on March 7 at LVHC site auditorium.

A preview of oil and water color paintings to be auctioned by The Fine Arts Gallery, Ardmore, will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the auction starts at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the event.

Molly Sebastian, RN, head nurse, TOHU, describes the event, now in its fourth year, as "lots of fun" with a broad range of prices for art purchasers.

Admission is \$5 per person; patron tickets at \$25 give the purchaser four free admissions to the event.

Sebastian says the auction is the primary fund raiser for the nursing scholarships.

### TAH Auxiliary's Popular Leather Sales Return

The Auxiliary of The Allentown Hospital is again sponsoring leather handbag and briefcase sales by Kim Rau on five dates in front of TAH site cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sale dates are Feb. 15, March 15, April 12, May 10 and June 7. Cash and personal checks will be accepted. Additional information is available from Kitti Berkheimer, auxiliary president, at 398-1616.

## Think Courtesy

### Security Asks Employees To Be Good Neighbors, Park In Lots At TAH Site

Employees at TAH site are again urged to park in their assigned spaces instead of on the streets near the hospital — as a simple matter of courtesy.

Gerald Kresge, director, Security, says he's hoping employees at the site will help improve relations with residents in the area of the hospital who also need places to park.

"All employees have an assigned place, and are assured of off-street parking," Kresge says. He adds that on many occasions residents of the area have

called Security to report anything strange or unusual going on in the lots.

"We value and appreciate area residents helping with parking security for our employees," Kresge adds. "I'd like to think we can return the favor."

The security director urges those who park on the streets to put themselves in the position of local residents who also need places to park.

"How would you feel if you couldn't find a place to park where you live?" he asks.

There have been some incidents involving minor collisions as cars try to squeeze into small remaining spots.

All of this understandably annoys residents and could lead to demands on the City of Allentown to restrict parking in the area through permits.

"Permit parking is not the best answer," Kresge observes. "It would be far better for employees to use their assigned spaces and help us maintain a good rapport with residents who help protect our property."