

The Power of Volunteers

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending Lehigh Valley Health Network's (LVHN) annual volunteer reception at SteelStacks in Bethlehem. I've attended this event in the past and am always amazed by the power of our volunteers. This year, the contributions of volunteers to our health care environment and the positive energy and commitment they provide became crystal clear. Here are just a few of the contributions of the more than 1,700 active LVHN volunteers:

- In 2016, nearly 100,000 hours of volunteer service were provided at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–17th Street, LVH–Cedar Crest and LVH–Muhlenberg alone.
- The youngest volunteer is 16 (they can't start before this age) and the most senior member of our volunteer staff is 97. There are more than 20 volunteers over 90 years of age.
- In 2016 alone, volunteer Marie Floyd tallied 994 volunteer hours – equivalent to about seven straight weeks (day and night) of time.



Joseph E. Patruno, MD
President, Medical Staff
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Gynecology/Primary Care OBGYN

Volunteering is a long-established tradition in the health care industry and thankfully the numbers are holding strong. Volunteers perform a variety of meaningful jobs, they add to the quality of care, support patients and encourage patients to help themselves. The evidence has shown promising results related to improvements in patient experience, mood, anxiety levels, nutrition and hydration, and decreased nursing time required.

It has also been shown that volunteering not only helps the network and organization but also the volunteers themselves. Many volunteers talk about the significant difference volunteering has made to their own lives, whether this is helping to improve their confidence levels, improving their job prospects or providing them with a sense of purpose. As an indirect benefit, many of our young volunteers ultimately return to LVHN as technicians, nurses, students and trainees, and even as physicians.

We at LVHN have developed innovative ways to utilize our volunteer workforce. The HELP program connects volunteers with patients during hospitalizations. The primary goal of HELP is to aid patients, who are often elderly, preserve cognitive function and maintain independence while transitioning from the hospital back to their home

settings. Similarly, the No One Dies Alone program, which started 16 years ago, pairs volunteers with terminally ill patients in hospice. This program has served more than 130 patients and involved more than 1,470 volunteer hours.

Volunteer work does not always require being at the point of care. With the opening of our new mother-baby unit at LVH–Muhlenberg, numerous volunteers have been giving their time at home knitting baby bonnets to be distributed to neonates delivered at LVHN, which is expected to be more than 4,600 in the coming year.

Volunteerism, however, is also reaching new heights in other environments and I believe we need to continue to look at other innovative models to engage and better utilize volunteers. In opening our new mother-baby unit, community members volunteered their time and insight to help us determine what was needed to make the unit successful. Although not exactly volunteerism in the traditional sense, volunteer focus groups are proving to be a vital component of a health care organization's efforts to achieve a greater understanding of the experiences, attitudes and behaviors of employees and patients. These groups also promote critical engagement and stewardship from the community at large, hopefully creating allegiance.

Another novel example of the power of volunteerism is the Winchester Free Clinic in Melrose, Calif. This is a clinic available to vulnerable patients who can't afford or don't have access to basic health care. The program is 99 percent volunteer based, with local high school teenagers (with supervision) providing a majority of the care. Through this clinic, vulnerable individuals receive vital health care while community/population health goals are met. The program also boasts having more than 600 of its volunteers enter the medical profession over the years as nurses and physicians. Perhaps influenced by their volunteer experience, many choose to return and practice in the community.

Volunteering in health care has the potential to save staff time, increase patient satisfaction, improve clinical outcomes and fulfill volunteers' needs. Surely we must all agree to keep this program strong and growing. We need to continue to look at and support volunteer opportunities. We need to remain creative, and to consider expanding volunteer opportunities and responsibilities. We must recognize the important direct and indirect impact such experience has on our environment and the volunteers themselves.

There is a good chance you will cross paths with one of our many volunteers today at work. Please take the time to acknowledge and thank them for what they do for our patients and our great network.

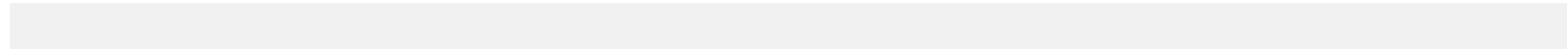
Joseph E. Patruno, MD

Medical Staff President

For information on volunteering opportunities, contact [Karla Bachl](#), director of volunteers, at 610-402-8897.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Patruno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph E. Patruno, MD
Medical Staff President



GLVIPA General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting of the Greater Lehigh Valley Independent Practice Association will be held Monday, June 26, at 6 p.m. in the Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Cedar Crest Auditorium, with video conferencing to LVH–Muhlenberg, ECC Room B, and LVH–Hazleton, Annex Building, Board Room.

The topic, “Mitigating Physician Burnout and Compassion Fatigue,” will be presented by well known author and speaker Michael E. Frisina, PhD.

For questions or feedback on this article, contact [Mary Ann Curcio](#), Coordinator, GLVIPA, at 610 969 0423.

Additional Weight-Loss Services Coming This Summer

To help patients in Northampton County reach their weight-loss goals, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) will begin offering additional services starting this summer.

Patients can learn about LVHN’s bariatric surgeons and their surgical and non-surgical weight-loss options firsthand at the Health Center at Palmer Township and Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)—Muhlenberg. Both locations will offer medical weight loss, presurgery education classes and free information sessions.

During the free events, patients can meet Guillermo Garcia, MD, of LVPG General and Bariatric Surgery—Muhlenberg (formerly General Surgical Associates of LVPG). Garcia will begin performing sleeve gastrectomy procedures at LVH—Muhlenberg this summer. Patients can get answers to their medical and surgical weight-loss questions in person from Garcia, who is fluent in English and Spanish.

In general, bariatric surgery may be appropriate for patients with a BMI of 40 or greater (or a BMI of 35 or greater for patients with a pre-existing condition, such as type 2 diabetes). Sleeve gastrectomy can help patients lose up to 70 percent of their excess body weight within two years.

Free weight-loss information events will also continue to take place several times a month at LVH—Cedar Crest with Richard Boorse, MD, T. Daniel Harrison, MD, and Paul Cesanek, MD.

Patients can sign up for a free information event at LVHN.org/weightloss.

For questions or feedback on this article, contact [Caroline Harpster](#).



Progress Notes

Interviewers Sought for SELECT Admissions

New interviewers are being recruited for the behavioral event interviewing (BEI) sessions for the 2017-2018 SELECT admissions cycle.

Interviews are typically held on the second and fourth Monday afternoon of each month from September through April. SELECT interviews begin at 1 p.m. and end by approximately 4 p.m. Interviews are usually conducted at Lehigh Valley Hospital–Cedar Crest in the Kasych Pavilion.

If you are a current SELECT faculty or have submitted a faculty appointment application to the office of Faculty Affairs and are looking for additional opportunities to volunteer, consider registering for the upcoming BEI training session, to be held Thursday, Aug. 17, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Location: Department of Education, 1247 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 202, room TBD. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

If you have question about how to obtain a faculty appointment please contact our Medical Education Coordinator, Debra Lamontagne at 610-402-2569

Thanks to all of you who give your time in making a lasting impression on these potential future SELECT students.

For questions or feedback on this article or to register for a training session, contact [Emilie Bree Croft](#), assistant director, SELECT Admissions/Recruitment, at 610-402-2602.

Quick Links

- Visit [Medical Staff Services Online](#)
- Return to [Progress Notes Home](#)
- Read [past issues of Progress Notes](#)

Progress Notes Highlights



This sheet captures highlights from the latest issue of Progress Notes.

DOWNLOAD

How You Can Help Our Mission

This is a non-profit organization. Please consider donating to help heal, comfort and care.
[LEARN MORE »](#)

About Us

News

Contact Us

Give

Become a Volunteer

Give Website Feedback

Careers

Meet Our Providers: **Videos**
Capture Their Personality,
Passion



©2017 Lehigh Valley Health Network | Privacy Policy | Terms and Conditions



Nominations Sought for Biennial APC Awards

All medical staff members and allied health professionals are encouraged to submit nominations for the biennial Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Awards, which will be presented at the APC general membership meeting in September.

Please submit an email with the name of your nominee and an explanation why he/she is a good candidate for a particular award to [Evelyn Edwards](#), administrative assistant to the APC Executive Council. Deadline for submissions is July 31. The APC Executive Council will review all nominations and determine winners.

The awards and nominating criteria are as follows:

Education/Research Award – This award will be presented to the APC who has shown excellence in the pursuit of academic activities in clinical research, peer-reviewed publications, educational presentations, and/or ongoing clinical education in their specialty.

Community Service Award – This award will be presented to the APC who best embodies the importance of participation in community activities in terms of service, involvement in community groups, philanthropic interests, or other community activities over a period of years.

APC Award – This award will be presented to the APC, nominated by his or her peers, who embodies the professional attributes of a superior APC, and whose leadership qualities excel.

Physician APC Champion – This award will be presented to the physician who consistently supports the promotion, advancement and education of advanced practice clinicians at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Feedback Wanted Regarding Staff Communications

The medical staff is looking for clinician input on the effectiveness of current staff communications and how we could make it better going forward. Our medical staff continues to grow exponentially, and it's crucial to maintain the most proficient and effective means of communication possible. We're asking all clinicians to take a few minutes to complete a short, five-question "pulse survey" to assist us in meeting this important goal.

You can find the survey at <https://www.lvhn.org/medstaffsurvey>. Your opinion and feedback would be greatly appreciated.

For questions or feedback on this article, contact [Joseph E. Patruno, MD](#), medical staff president, at 610-402-1600.

New Editions of eBooks Available Through the Digital Library

In the past year, Library Services has added more than 200 electronic medical, nursing, allied health and management titles. The Digital Library now has more than 3,000 full-text ebooks.

Some of the new ebook editions are:

- *Advanced Cardiac Imaging*
- *Advanced Reconstruction Shoulder*
- *Atlas of Abdominal Wall Reconstruction*
- *The Atlas of Emergency Medicine*
- *Atlas of Neonatal Electroencephalography*
- *Atlas of Pain Management Injection Techniques*
- *Andrews' Diseases of the Skin Clinical Atlas*
- *Benzel's Spine Surgery*
- *Callen's Ultrasonography in Obstetrics & Gynecology*
- *Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics*
- *Clinical Cardiac Pacing, Defibrillation, & Resynchronization Therapy*
- *Comprehensive Gynecology*
- *Diagnosis and Management of Adult Congenital Heart Disease*
- *Endoscopic Diagnosis and Treatment in Urethral Pathology*
- *Evidence-Based Physical Diagnosis*
- *Evidence-Based Practice in Sport and Exercise*
- *Fetal and Neonatal Physiology*
- *Green's Operative Hand Surgery*
- *Kelley and Firestein's Textbook of Rheumatology*
- *Movement Disorders in Childhood*
- *Neuroradiology: The Requisites*
- *Orthopedic Physical Assessment*
- *Practical Hepatic Pathology*
- *Principles and Practice of Hospital Medicine*
- *Principles of Hand Surgery and Therapy*
- *The Retinal Atlas*
- *Robbins Basic Pathology*

- *Sabiston Textbook of Surgery*
- *Smith's Anesthesia for Infants and Children*
- *Weedon's Skin Pathology Essentials*
- *Zakim and Boyer's Hepatology*
- *Zollinger's Atlas of Surgical Operations*

You can search the entire book collection in the [library catalog](#) through the Digital Library:

- Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)—Cedar Crest, LVH—17th Street and LVH—Muhlenberg
 - In Epic, choose Library Services under WebLinks
 - From the LVHN intranet homepage, click on Find Fast/Library Services and then click on Books and eBooks button
- LVH—Hazleton
 - From the LVH—Hazleton intranet home page, click on Library Services and then click on LVHN Library Catalog
- LVH—Schuylkill
 - Please note not all ebooks are currently available at your site. From the LVH—Schuylkill intranet home page, click on Library Services & Patient Ed and then click on Library catalog Books and eBooks
- LVH—Pocono
 - Please note not all ebooks are currently available at your site. From the LVH—Pocono intranet homepage, click on LVHN Links and then click on Library Services/Patient Ed then click on Library catalog Books and eBooks

For questions or feedback on this article, contact [Linda Matula Schwartz](#), Director, Department of Education, Educational Infrastructure, at 610-402-5290.

June 2017 Papers, Publications and Presentations

- Brett Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C, and Timothy Friel, MD, of the Department of Medicine; Cristina Calogero, BS, Kareem Elsayed, BS, Osman Abbasi, DO, Joshua Enyart, DO, and Stephen Dusza, DrPH, and Marna Rayl Greenberg, DO, MPH, of the Department of Emergency Medicine; and Yasir Abunamous, MD, of the Department of Family Medicine, co-authored an article, "Prevalence of homelessness in the emergency department setting." It was published March 7, 2017, online ahead of print in the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine.
- Bryan Kane, MD, Alexander Guillaume, BA, Elizabeth Evans, DO, Terrence Goyke, DO, Jessica Eygnor, DO, Lauren Semler, MS, and Marna Rayl Greenberg, DO, MPH, of the Department of Emergency Medicine, co-authored an article, "Gender differences in CDC guideline compliance for STIs in emergency departments." It was published in the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine, Volume 18, Number 3, April 2017.
- Drew Keister, MD, and Julie Dostal, MD, of the Department of Family Medicine, co-authored an article, "Association between patient-centered medical home features and satisfaction with family medicine residency training in the US." It was published in Family Medicine, Volume 48, Number 10, November-December 2016.
- Elaine Seaton Banerjee, MD, MPH, of the Department of Family Medicine, co-authored an article, "Overcoming obesity: a mixed methods study of the impact of primary care physician counseling on low-income African American women who successfully lost weight." It was published March 16, 2017, online ahead of print in the American Journal of Health Promotion.
- Marna Rayl Greenberg, DO, MPH, of the Department of Emergency Medicine, co-authored an article, "Advancing emergency medicine by incorporating sex and gender: it benefits women, it benefits men." It was published April 29, 2017, online ahead of print in Annals of Emergency Medicine.
- Robert Motley, MD, of the Department of Community Health; Richard Mazzaccaro, MD, PhD, of the Department of Pediatrics; David Burmeister, DO, of the Department of Emergency Medicine; Samuel Land, MD, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Richard Boulay, MD, of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology; Heiwon Chung, MD, of the Department of Surgery; Lynn Deitrick, RN, PhD, of the University of South Florida; and Andrew Sumner, MD, of the Division of Cardiology, co-authored an article, "Using focus groups to identify characteristics of an ideal work environment for advanced practice clinicians." It was published in Healthcare, Volume 4, Number 3, September 2016.
- Elaine Donoghue, MD, Vice Chair for Education, Department of Pediatrics, developed PS 130319, "Quality early education and child care from birth to kindergarten," and received notification that it will be published in the next issue of Pediatrics.
- Debra Esernio-Jenssen, MD, Child Advocacy Specialist, Department of Pediatrics, presented "Child abuse: what EMS needs to know," on April 22, 2017, at Lehigh Valley Health Network's Third Annual Pediatric Symposium.

June 2017 Upcoming Seminars, Conferences and Meetings

Department of Education Conferences

- July 20 – Child Maltreatment Hurts Us All; Anderson Family Pavilion, LVH–Cedar Crest, 4:30-6:30 p.m. CE credits offered for physicians and nurses. (This is the education required by the state for all licensed health care providers.) To register, visit <https://go.activecalendar.com/lvhn-doe> and search for the event by title or date.

For more information, call 610 402 2277, option 1, or visit LVHN.org/ce-calendar.

Pediatric Grand Rounds

- June 13 – Topic TBD, with Adam Donnelly, MD, Chief Resident; LVH–Cedar Crest Auditorium, 8-9 a.m.
- June 20 – Brachial/Peripheral Nerve Injury, with Elias Rizk, MD, Penn State Hershey; Kasych Family Pavilion ECC Room 6 at LVH–Cedar Crest, 8-9 a.m.
- June 27 – Topic TBD, with Richard Mazzaccaro, MD, Pediatric Hospitalist; Kasych Family Pavilion ECC Room 6 at LVH–Cedar Crest, 8-9 a.m.

The Department of Pediatrics holds Grand Rounds on Tuesdays at the locations noted.

For more information, contact [Cari Cleffi](#) in the Department of Pediatrics at 484-862-3131.

Who's New—June 2017

Jump to: | [Medical staff new appointments](#) | [Resignations](#) | [Status change](#)
| [Allied health staff new appointments](#) | [Resignations](#) | [Change of supervising physician](#)
| [Change of supervising physician and group](#) | [Additional Supervising Physician](#)
| [Additional Supervising Physician and Group](#) | [Name Change](#)

MEDICAL STAFF

New Appointments

Effective May 30, 2017

Richard B. Birrer, MD

(EmCare – Lori A. Lawson, MD)

Emergency and Hospital Medicine

Emergency Medicine

EmCare

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Schuylkill

700 E. Norwegian St.

Pottsville, PA 17901-2710

Phone: 570-621-4090 Fax: 570-628-2210

Provisional Active

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

LVH–S

Ranjini Chugh, MD

(LVPG Pediatrics–Bethlehem Township – Sanjeev Vasishta, MD)

Pediatrics

General Pediatrics

LVPG Pediatrics–Madison Farms

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

4807 Freemansburg Ave., Suite 100

Easton, PA 18045-5522

Phone: 484-591-7620 Fax: 484-491-7621

Provisional Active

Appointment Date: 06/05/2017

LVH LVH–M

Ivor F. Lewis, MD

LVPG Family Medicine—St. Clair

Family Medicine

LVPG Family Medicine—St. Clair

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

502 S. Second St., Suite B

Saint Clair, PA 17970-1377

Phone: 570-621-4364 Fax: 570-621-4641

Provisional Active

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

Temporary Privileges: 05/11/2017

LVH—H LVH—S

Tory J. Miksiewicz Clugston, MD

(LVPG Family Medicine—Blandon – Deborah A. Bren, DO)

Family Medicine

LVPG Family Medicine—Blandon

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

850 Golden Drive, Suite 1

Blandon, PA 19510-9657

Phone: 610-944-5555 Fax: 610-944-5551

Provisional Active

Appointment Date: 07/10/2017

LVH LVH—M

Resignations

Nicole M. Agostino, DO

Medicine

Hematology-Medical Oncology

(LVPG Hematology Oncology—1240 Cedar Crest)

Active

LVH LVH—M

05/03/2017

Chevaughn V. Daniel, MD

Pediatrics

General Pediatrics

(LVPG Pediatrics—Center Valley)

Active

LVH LVH—M

04/14/2017

Harsh Gandhi, MD

Medicine

Hematology-Medical Oncology

(Northeast Medical Oncology Associates)

Active
LVH–H
04/18/2017

Ivan M. Grynyschin, MD

Anesthesiology
(EmCare)
Active
LVH–S
04/19/2017

Jonathan I. Orwitz, MD

Medicine
Neurology
(Specialists On Call)
Telemedicine
LVH–S
05/01/2017

ALLIED HEALTH STAFF

New Appointments

Effective May 30, 2017

Anne M. Adams, LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor
LVPG Adult and Pediatric Psychiatry–Muhlenberg
2710 Schoenersville Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-7384
Phone: 610-297-7500 Fax: 610-297-7533
Supervising Physician: Christi A. Weston, MD, PhD
Appointment Date: 05/30/2017
Temporary Privileges: 05/22/2017
LVH LVH–M

Danielle M. Mitch, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified
LVPG Gynecologic Oncology–1240 Cedar Crest
Lehigh Valley Physician Group
1240 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 401
Allentown, PA 18103-6218
Phone: 610-402-3650 Fax: 610-402-3673
Supervising Physician: M. Bijoy Thomas, MD
Appointment Date: 05/30/2017
Temporary Privileges: 05/22/2017

LVH LVH–M

Barbara A. Morgenstern, RN

Registered Nurse

LVPBG Pediatrics–Laurys Station

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

Riverside Professional Center

5649 Wynnewood Drive, Suite 104

Laurys Station, PA 18059-1124

Phone: 610-262-6641 Fax: 610-262-0428

Supervising Physician: Renee D. Morrow-Connelly, DO

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

Temporary Privileges: 05/11/2017

LVH LVH–M

Kelli L. O'Donnell

Medical Assistant

LVPBG Pediatrics–Laurys Station

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

Riverside Professional Center

5649 Wynnewood Drive, Suite 104

Laurys Station, PA 18059-1124

Phone: 610-262-6641 Fax: 610-262-0428

Supervising Physician: Debra L. Carter, MD

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

Temporary Privileges: 05/11/2017

LVH LVH–M

Victoria Sewell, CRNP

Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner

LVPBG Consultation Liaison Psychiatry–1251 Cedar Crest

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

1251 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 202A

Allentown, PA 18103-6214

Phone: 610-402-5766 Fax: 610-402-5763

Supervising Physician: Kenneth J. Zemanek, MD

Appointment Date: 06/05/2017

LVH LVH–M

Christine E. Tucker, CRNP

Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner

LVPBG Endocrinology–1243 Cedar Crest

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

1243 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 2800

Allentown, PA 18103-6230

Phone: 610-402-6790 Fax: 610-402-6979

Supervising Physician: Sharmila C. Subaran, MD

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

Temporary Privileges: 05/22/2017

LVH LVH–M

Shobha S. Vanmali, RD

Registered Dietitian

Sodexo Dietitians

Lehigh Valley Hospital

Sodexo Administration Office

Cedar Crest and I-78, First Floor Kasych Pavilion

Allentown, PA 18105-1556

Phone: 610-402-8609 Fax: 610-402-1034

Supervising Physician: Rena M. Lambert, DO

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

Temporary Privileges: 05/11/2017

LVH LVH–M

Jacob D. Wills, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified

LVPG Adult Psychiatry–Muhlenberg

Lehigh Valley Physician Group

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Muhlenberg

2545 Schoenersville Road, Fifth Floor

Bethlehem, PA 18017-7384

Phone: 484-884-6501 Fax: 484-884-6504

Supervising Physician: Laurence P. Karper, MD

Appointment Date: 05/30/2017

Temporary Privileges: 05/22/2017

LVH LVH–M

Resignations

Stewart G. Ackerman, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified

(Advanced Inpatient Medicine)

Provisional Allied Health

LVH–H

05/03/2017

Deborah B. Gianos, CRNP

Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner

(LVPG Pediatric Surgical Specialties–1210 Cedar Crest)

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

05/09/2017

Paula J. Jacobs, CRNP

Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner

(Lehigh Valley Hospital–Schuylkill Department of Pediatrics)

Allied Health

LVH–S

04/19/2017

Hollie L. Keiter

Medical Assistant

(LVPG Pediatrics–Pond Road)

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

04/18/2017

Jeffrey W. Knauss, EdD

Psychologist

(Jeffrey W. Knauss, EdD, ABPP)

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

04/30/2017

Kristin M. Minetola, RD

Registered Dietitian

(Sodexo Dietitians)

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

04/16/2017

Joseph F. Panczer

Medical Assistant

(The Heart Care Group, PC)

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

04/30/2017

Christopher W. Skelly

Pacemaker/ICD Technician

(Biotronik, Inc.)

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

04/30/2017

Change of Supervising Physician

Geoffrey P. Carlson, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified

(LVPG Family Medicine–Fogelsville)

From: Vanessa J. Eiswerth, DO
To: Craig R. Christine, DO
Allied Health
LVH LVH–M
05/30/2017

Change of Supervising Physician and Group

Susan B. Cascioli, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

From: LVPG Adult and Pediatric Psychiatry–Muhlenberg – Christi A. Weston, MD, PhD

To: LVPG Family Medicine–Easton Ave. – Susan D. Wiley, MD

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

05/30/2017

John W. Zerfass, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified

From: LVPG Family Medicine–Nazareth – Raji G. Mathew, MD

To: LVPG Family Medicine–Palmer Township – Ryan T. Smith, DO

Provisional Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

06/15/2017

Additional Supervising Physician

Jenny Kirn, LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor

(Department of Community Health – Kimberly C. Brown, MD)

Addition of: Susan D. Wiley, MD

Provisional Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

05/30/2017

Additional Supervising Physician and Group

Ryan A. Friend, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified

(LVPG Cardiology–1250 Cedar Crest – Ellina C. Feiner, MD)

Addition of: LVPG Hospital Medicine at Cedar Crest – Anthony P. Buonanno, MD

Allied Health

LVH LVH–M

05/30/2017

John D. Page, PA-C

Physician Assistant-Certified

(ExpressCARE–Muhlenberg – Jyoti G. Gopal, MD)

Addition of: LVPG–Emergency Medicine – Anthony T. Werhun, MD

Provisional Allied Health

LVH LVH-M
05/30/2017

Annie D. Singh, CRNP

Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner
(LVPG–Emergency Medicine – Anthony T. Werhun, MD)
(LVPG Hospital Medicine at Cedar Crest – Anthony P. Buonanno, MD)
Addition of: HealthWorks – Uchechukwu N. Onuoha, MD, MPH
Allied Health

LVH LVH-M
06/05/2017

Name Change

Lorna M. Torres-Rodriguez, CRNP, changed to Lorna M. Pinguelo, CRNP
LVPG Pediatric Hematology Oncology–Muhlenberg
Pediatrics
Pediatric Subspecialties
Hematology-Medical Oncology

Update on Disposal of Unused Medications

When medications are no longer needed to treat a condition or illness, it's important that they are disposed of properly to reduce the risk of accidental or intentional misuse.

The best way to dispose of unwanted medications, including controlled substances, is by participating in a drug take-back day, which are hosted periodically at various locations by the Drug Enforcement Administration, or by dropping the medications off at a designated location. Our Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) Cedar Crest, Muhlenberg and 17th Street campuses have secure medication drop-off boxes that can be used by anyone wanting to dispose of medications. The boxes are located near Health Spectrum Pharmacy or the main hospital entrances. Inhalers, sharps and topical products may not be placed in the boxes.

Most medications can safely be disposed in the regular trash by following these steps:

1. Remove the medication from its original container and mix it with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter, dirt, coffee grounds or dish liquid.
2. Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty can or other container to prevent the drug from leaking.
3. Place sealed container in the regular household trash.

Opioids

The only medications that the FDA recommends flushing down the toilet are opioid medications. This is recommended because flushing is a very quick way to remove these dangerous substances from the home. Opioid medications may also be dropped off in one of the secured take-back boxes, or by participating in a take-back day.

Inhalers

Before disposing of your inhaler in the regular trash, you should contact your local trash or recycling center to see how they would like you to dispose of it. This is because puncturing or incinerating an inhaler could be dangerous.

Sharps

Used needles, or "sharps," should be collected in a puncture-resistant, hard plastic or metal container. If a traditional red sharps container is not available, an empty detergent bottle or coffee can with a lid is sufficient. Each state has specific requirements as to how a sharps container should be disposed. Contact your local recycling center and ask if they have hazardous waste pickups or drop-offs. If that is not an option, in Pennsylvania, you can follow these steps:

1. Place 1 teaspoon of bleach and ½ gallon of water into the sharps container
2. Close the container and seal it with heavy duty tape
3. Label the container “DO NOT RECYCLE”
4. Place the sealed container in a paper bag and discard it with your regular household trash.

For additional information regarding medication disposal, you can speak with your pharmacist, or use the helpful links below.

- FDA: [gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm](https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm)
- Sharps disposal by state: [com/us/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=7002&id=10284](https://www.com/us/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=7002&id=10284)

For questions or feedback on this article, contact [Lauren Grantz](#), Director, Health Spectrum Pharmacy Services, at 610-402-5294.