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From: LVHN Insider <no-reply@insider.lvhn.org>
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To: Joan Farrell
Subject: LVHN Weekly: No. 1 U.S. News Ranking, Staff Musikfest Tents and More

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LVHN WEEKLY | YOUR WRAP-UP OF THE WEEK'S NEWS FROM LVHN



We're No. 1 Thanks to You

Lehigh Valley Hospital is No. 1 in the region and top five in the state on U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals list.

[Read more →](#)

Musikfest Is Back! Sign Up to Staff LVHN Health Tents

Clinical and nonclinical colleagues from the Lehigh Valley are needed from Aug. 5-15.

[Read more →](#)



No Confusion: Wear Face Masks at All LVHN and Coordinated Health Facilities

Face masks are still required, even if you are vaccinated.

[Read more →](#)



We're Hiring! Refer a Qualified Candidate and Earn a Bonus

A new role has been added to the referral program. See the full list.

[Read more →](#)



Do You Need a Third COVID-19 Shot?

LVHN is participating in the Pfizer study to find the answer.

[Read more →](#)



Hackerman-Patz House Celebrates 10 Years

It's a "home away from home" for LVHN patients' loved ones.

[Read more →](#)



LVHN's Medical Home Project Supports People With Disabilities

In July, we acknowledge the experiences of patients and colleagues living with a disability.

[Read more →](#)



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Join the LVHN Recreation Committee at the IronPigs game on Aug. 8.

[Read more →](#)



Back Fixing Engines After Years of Urologic Pain

Young mechanic gets life-changing second opinion at LVHN that finally fixed painful ureter-related condition.

[Read more →](#)



Lehigh Valley Health Network 1200 Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown, PA 18105

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We're No. 1 Thanks to You

Lehigh Valley Hospital is No. 1 in the region and top five in the state on U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals list.

LVHN Insider

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

For more than 20 years, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) has earned a spot on U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals list for demonstrating the highest level of quality and safety. Now, Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) tops the list as the Lehigh Valley's No. 1 hospital and ranks in the top five among all Pennsylvania hospitals.

Take a closer look at our performance

In 2021-22, LVH earned a high performing rating in six adult specialties, including:

- Gastroenterology and GI Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology and Lung Surgery
- Urology

LVH also is listed as high performing in 14 common adult procedures and conditions tracked by U.S. News, including:

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Aortic valve surgery
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Colon cancer surgery
- Diabetes
- Heart attack
- Heart bypass surgery
- Heart failure
- Hip replacement
- Kidney failure
- Knee replacement
- Lung cancer surgery
- Stroke
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)

Our core values guide us to achieve great things

Compassion, integrity, collaboration and excellence: These are LVHN's core values. With people's lives in our hands, our values are the truest definition of who we are as individuals and as a cohesive LVHN.

We act ethically and honestly, we create exceptional experiences in a safe environment, and we focus relentlessly on innovation and superior results to achieve the best outcomes. That's what makes us great, and that's why we're recognized as the best hospital in the Lehigh Valley and one of the best hospitals in Pennsylvania.

U.S. News & World Report consistently recognizes outstanding colleagues among the top providers around the nation. For that, you should be #LVHNProud.

No Confusion: Wear Face Masks at All LVHN and Coordinated Health Facilities

**Even if you're vaccinated, you must still wear a face mask
when you come for care, bring someone for care, or to
visit a hospital**

By Jenn Fisher
July 27, 2021

Image



Face mask recommendations keep evolving as the pandemic continues. However, health care facilities still require face mask use – and that includes Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) and Coordinated Health facilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has consistently maintained that patients and visitors need to wear face masks in all health care facilities.

“We are seeing more people arrive at our facilities for care or to accompany a patient who are not wearing a face mask, and we want to get out the word that face masks are still required at all Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) and Coordinated Health facilities that provide care,” says Susan Lawrence, Senior Vice President, Ambulatory and Post Acute Services, LVHN.

If you are coming to an LVHN or Coordinated Health site for an appointment or visiting someone in one of our hospitals, bring a face mask from home and wear it during your visit.

Here are all the LVHN and Coordinated Health locations you must bring and wear a face mask:

- Lehigh Valley Health Network hospitals
- Lehigh Valley Physician Group practices
- Coordinated Health hospitals
- Coordinated Health practices
- All LVHN and Coordinated Health rehabilitation centers
- All LVHN and Coordinated Health locations that provide health care

Thank you for protecting those who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 by wearing your face mask in our facilities.



We're Hiring! Refer a Qualified Candidate and Earn a Bonus

A new role has been added to the referral program. See the full list.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Do you know a qualified candidate interested in working for LVHN? When you refer a qualified candidate for select positions you could be eligible to earn a referral bonus.

LVHN is always looking to attract experienced health care professionals at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)—Cedar Crest, LVH—Muhlenberg, LVH—Hecktown Oaks, LVH—Hazleton, LVH—Schuylkill and LVH—Pocono. As LVHN's most passionate ambassadors, we're counting on your partnership to refer people in your social and professional networks to apply for open roles at LVHN. When you help us attract qualified candidates, you could be eligible for a significant financial reward.

- **Refer an experienced* inpatient registered nurse, earn up to a \$5,000 bonus.** You will receive \$1,500 at six months of active employment, \$1,500 at one year and \$2,000 at two years.

- **Refer an experienced* technical partner or nursing assistant, earn up to a \$1,000 bonus.** You will receive \$500 at six months of active employment, \$250 at one year and \$250 at two years.
- **Refer a full-time physical therapist, earn up to a \$1,000 bonus.** You will receive \$500 at six months of active employment and \$500 at one year.
- **Refer a colleague who is hired for Environmental Services or Dietary at LVH–Pocono,** earn up to a \$200 bonus. You will receive \$100 in your first paycheck after the colleague is hired and \$100 after 60 days.
- **Refer a medical assistant, earn up to a \$1,000 bonus.** You will receive \$500 at six months of active employment and \$500 at one year.

*At least one year of direct patient care

How does the referral bonus work?

When you refer a candidate to LVHN, they will include your name on their application. Candidates can explore job opportunities here: [LVHN.org/careers](https://lvhn.org/careers).

Then, you will complete the Employee Referral Form found here: [LVHN.org/referral](https://lvhn.org/referral).

The Employee Referral Bonus is being offered for eligible colleagues entering positions where the need is greatest at the moment. While we are only able to offer a referral bonus on select positions, we continue to work diligently to fill all vacant positions throughout the health network.

You can learn more by reading about Active Referral Programs here: [LVHN.org/employee-referral-form](https://lvhn.org/employee-referral-form)

Referral bonuses are available for a limited time. Positions chosen for a referral bonus are based on supply and demand and will change based on the needs of the organization.

Thank you for your partnership in attracting the best and brightest health care professionals to LVHN.

Do You Need a Third COVID-19 Shot?
LVHN is Participating in the Pfizer Study to
Find the Answer
By Hannah Ropp



Now that COVID-19 vaccines have been proven safe and effective, the next question on everyone's mind is whether fully vaccinated people will need a third shot to boost immunity. Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is teaming up with Pfizer to help answer that question by enrolling patients in Pfizer's new COVID-19 booster trial.

This is not the first time LVHN has partnered with Pfizer. LVHN enrolled 75 participants in the first Pfizer vaccine trial and 25 of those participants have now been chosen to take part in the subsequent booster trial. There will be 10,000 people worldwide enrolled in Pfizer's COVID-19 booster trial. The trial is expected to last roughly a year and will determine whether the booster provides additional protection from COVID-19 and COVID-19 variants.

What's involved in the study

According to [Joseph Yozviak, DO](#), LVHN Principal Investigator for the COVID-19 booster clinical trial, the study will be placebo controlled, which means participants will either receive a dose of the vaccine or salt water (placebo). The same dosage and formulation of the original Pfizer vaccine is being used as the booster in this first part of the study.

Yozviak says it's important that LVHN has participants enrolled in Pfizer's study. "It's important to have our region represented in a study like this because it's a critical issue that's going to affect all of us down the road," he says.

Who may benefit from research

Research has already caused change. Based on data reviews, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommend that people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised receive a third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The two mRNA vaccines that have Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA are Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna.

Starting in mid-August, LVHN began offering third vaccine shots to qualified people in this group. Learn more about third COVID-19 shots at [LVHN.org/thirdshot](https://www.lvhn.org/thirdshot).

Yozviak stresses that it is currently not known if a third COVID-19 shot is necessary for all individuals. “Right now, the most important thing that you can do is make sure that you are fully vaccinated with both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Each has been proven highly effective against COVID-19 and variants like delta,” he says.

Hackerman-Patz House Celebrates 10 Years

It’s a “home away from home” for LVHN patients’ loved ones.

By **Paula Rasich**



For the past decade, the [Hackerman-Patz House](#) has been a home away from home for patients and families receiving care at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN).

A place to de-stress

Born in Trinidad. Akillah Jemmott, 29, came to the U.S. in 2014. That year, her son Omari was born at LVHN. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy caused by a perinatal stroke. To receive the expert pediatric care Omari needed, Akillah had to travel to the Lehigh Valley from the Poconos for care.

“The commute was long,” Akillah says. “In addition to cerebral palsy, my son has multiple diagnoses. Being in and out of the hospital is very stressful, especially when you have to stay in the ICU looking at the same four walls for an extended period.”

In the past seven years, Akillah and her mother have come to the Hackerman-Patz House on multiple occasions. Although Akillah now lives in Whitehall, she still gets back to the house. In 2020, she stayed for more than two weeks.

Ten years of comfort

The Hackerman-Patz House opened its doors July 18, 2011. Located on the campus of [LVH–Cedar Crest](#), the family lodging center offers patients and families a convenient, inexpensive place to rest.

The nightly rate of just \$45 per room has not changed in six years. The building has 20 private rooms, a shared kitchen, laundry facilities, an outdoor garden space, a playroom for children and a Great Room for relaxing and making friends. Toiletries and pantry items are all donated.

“There are lots of smiles and tears. The miracles that our doctors and staff perform with our patients are just phenomenal.”

A gift to the community

This “home away from home” was made possible by a \$2 million gift from the late Willard Hackerman, President and CEO of Baltimore’s Whiting-Turner Contracting Company. While managing the construction of the Kasych Family Pavilion, Willard and his wife, Lillian Patz-Hackerman, admired the health

network's warm and welcoming spirit. Therefore, they decided to build a Hackerman-Patz House here, the first outside the Baltimore area.

Gratitude for the love

"I want to give thanks to everyone who works at the Hackerman-Patz House and to the Hackermans," Akillah says. "They really knew what they were doing when they created such an environment. You meet so many people going through unknown battles with family members or even themselves. When you walk into this space you can just feel the love."



4 Things You May Not Know About the Hackerman-Patz House

Support for anyone, from anywhere

In its first year of operation, the Hackerman-Patz House served 1,300 guests. Since then, more than 100,000 guests from all over the United States and the world have visited. Some guests have loved ones hospitalized in critical care units. Others are awaiting an adopted child to be born or undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

"We have people that are here for a night or two, but we also have people who are here for months at a time," says Kelley Gold, Director of Guest Services since 2013. "Despite the tragic circumstances they are going through, our guests are positive and want to give back. They are amazing."

When the Hackerman-Patz House opened, it was exclusively for people who lived more than 30 miles away. But the distance requirement has since been dropped. Today, rooms are in demand. The house is filled to capacity nearly 75 percent of the time. During the pandemic, rooms were made available to hospital staff.

Everyday miracles

Gina Jones, a Staff Assistant since the house opened, says taking care of guests has been a rich and rewarding experience. “The job takes on a different flavor every day,” she says. “There are lots of smiles and tears. The miracles that our doctors and staff perform with our patients are just phenomenal.”

“Kelley and the staff go above and beyond to make sure that, although you’re going through a very stressful time in your life, you feel as comfortable and as at-home as possible,” Akillah says. “That is genuine kindness and empathy.”

Giving back

Akillah is now working as an Administrative Partner in the [Jeffrey Paul and Grace Kathryn Feather Pediatric Intensive Care Unit \(PICU\)](#) and currently studying for her master’s degree in health care administration. “Working in the PICU gives me a chance to give back to kids like my son,” she says. “I try to make these kids as comfortable and happy as possible. Sometimes they have no one there with them.”

A home that’s here for you

The Hackerman-Patz House is located at 1260 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, Pa. 18105. The house is located on the campus of LVH–Cedar Crest across from the emergency room. To make a reservation, call [610-402-9500](#).



LVHN's Medical Home Project Supports People With Disabilities

In July, we acknowledge the experiences of patients and colleagues living with a disability.

LVHN Insider

Monday, July 26, 2021

This message is from Sweetie Jain, MD, LVPG Family Medicine, Director, Medical Home Project.

At LVHN, we believe it is important to acknowledge the experience and voices of our patients and colleagues who are living with a disability and whose lives have been touched by someone who is living with a disability.

To honor the contributions of people with disabilities, raise awareness and acceptance of people with disabilities and to promote inclusivity, many organizations around the world observe Disability Awareness Day between July 14 and July 16.

Additionally, on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act. Thirty-one years later, we recognize the importance of this law as it ensures the

civil rights of people with disabilities by prohibiting discrimination in employment, transportation, public accommodations, commercial facilities, telecommunications and state and local government services.

Through advocacy and education, the Medical Home Project (MHP) assists health care professionals to provide patient-centered care and dissolve health care barriers faced by individuals with disabilities and their families.

In addition, MHP empowers patients by raising their awareness of community resources. Through their work, MHP team members embody LVHN's core values: compassion, integrity, collaboration and excellence.

If you would like to learn more about the Medical Home Project and how to serve individuals with disabilities, please [watch this video](#).

For more information, contact Sweetey Jain, MD, Medical Home Project Director, Sweetey.Jain@lvhn.org, or Brenda Schnable, Medical Home Project Coordinator, Brenda.Schnable@lvhn.org.

PATIENT STORY

Back Fixing Engines After Years of Urologic Pain

Young mechanic gets life-changing second opinion at LVHN that finally fixed painful ureter-related condition

By **Joe Nixon**



For Josh Halecky, there's no other way to describe the pain he dealt with for years as stent after stent was surgically placed in his ureter to keep one of his kidneys from being obstructed.

“Life was hell, to put it politely,” he says.

The small-engine mechanic from Weatherly, Carbon County said he started having pain at 22 and initially saw a urologist about an hour away in northeastern Pennsylvania. After a series of stents were surgically removed and inserted over a period of years, Halecky was still in pain and increasingly frustrated. “The stents were hurting more than anything,” he says. “I was at a point where I didn’t trust doctors.”

Solving the problem

His girlfriend suggested he seek a second opinion from [Jonathan Bingham, MD](#), a urologist with LVPG Urology, who has an office location in nearby Hazleton.

Bingham looked at Halecky’s most recent CT scan. “Within five minutes he told me the stent was never going to fix my problem,” says Halecky, now 28.

Halecky was impressed by how Bingham explained his options. “He made everything clear to me,” Halecky says. “He explained things so I could understand. He explained everything that would happen. He broke it down step by step.”



[Jonathan B. Bingham, MD](#)

Urology

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As it turned out, Halecky had a blood vessel crossing his ureter, the tube that drains urine from the kidney to the bladder, and that blood vessel was partially obstructing urine flow. Bingham says the condition is quite common and in Halecky’s case, could have been there from birth.

Halecky was referred to urologist [Jatin Gupta, DO](#), also with LVPG Urology and [Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence](#), for surgery to repair the problem.

Robotic-assisted surgery

Gupta operated on Halecky just before Christmas 2020 at LVH–Muhlenberg. The obstruction was removed by way of a robotic-assisted laparoscopic pyeloplasty. Gupta says the benefits of the surgical technique are that it's minimally invasive (four keyhole-size incisions resulting in minimal blood loss), provides improved surgeon control resulting in a durable repair, and decreases hospital stay and post-operative pain.

Prior to this minimally invasive approach, patients would have to have open surgery, which would leave a 4- to 6-inch scar, increased risk for damage to surrounding areas of the body, and increased blood loss. Additionally, patients would have a prolonged hospital stay and increased postoperative pain.

“His outlook is fantastic. I just saw him recently and he says he is ‘liberated’ and is back to work and exercise,” says Gupta. “He’s no longer at risk for developing a blockage and can live his life without having to have a stent changed every three months as he was doing prior to having his surgery at LVH–Muhlenberg.”



[Jatin P. Gupta, DO, MS](#)

Urology

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Gratitude all around

Halecky is a big fan of both doctors, saying they took his “life that was hell and made it normal again.”

Gupta says he’s humbled and grateful he and his team were able to help Halecky. “I’m always delighted when I see patients have a successful outcome, because it means they can regain their independence and not worry about that particular health issue anymore.”

“It’s rewarding when you’re able to correct an issue and improve a patient’s quality of life,” adds Bingham. “It’s why I chose a surgical field. You can often fix people, and that’s very gratifying.

If you're coping with a urologic problem and not happy with your current treatment, get a [second opinion E-Visit](#) from LVPG Urology or call 888-402-LVHN (5846) to request an appointment.
