Welcome new Data Coordinator, Infection Preventionist, and Office Coordinator!

Amber Kucher joined the Infection Control and Prevention department as the secretary in 2005 and was promoted to the office coordinator shortly thereafter. In August 2011, Amber accepted the role of Data Coordinator. Amber attended Kutztown University.

Paula Cook has joined the Infection Control and Prevention department as a full time Infection Preventionist. Paula Comes from LVPG where she worked as a Clinical Educator. She also worked in Invasive Cardiology at LVH-CC. Paula obtained her BSN from Cedar Crest College in 2005 and a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from the University of Dayton in 1987.

Emilie first came to LVHN during the summer of 2011 as the selected research scholar for the Infection Control and Prevention department. Emilie’s previous work experience includes financial aid counselor and account analyst at Montgomery County Community College. During her time at the college, she also ran a tutoring program for nursing students in biology and chemistry. Emilie received her Health and Biological Sciences degree from Westchester University in December 2011 and plans to pursue completion of her MPH in the near future.

PA Patient Safety Advisory

Central-Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection: Comprehensive, Data-Driven Prevention –
http://patientsafetyauthority.org/ADVISORIES/AdvisoryLibrary/2011/sep8(3)/Pages/100.aspx

Serious Peripheral IV Site Infections

There continues to be serious peripheral IV site infections associated with severe complications including but not limited to: readmission, vein excision, and/or sepsis. It is critically important that the following IV guidelines are followed.

1. Replace immediately if they were inserted in the field or at another institution. Replace as soon as the patient is stable and/or in less than 24 hours.
2. The antecubital site should be chosen as the last resort. Due to the constant bending of the arm, the antecubital IV takes a lot of wear and tear, resulting in problematic IV sites and infections. Also, once the antecubital site infiltrates, it is not best practice to seek a location below that site, which eliminates that arm for peripheral IV’s.
3. Accurate documentation as to the site and time the IV was inserted is imperative.
4. If in doubt, PULL IT OUT!

Infection Control and Prevention Manual

The Infection Control and Prevention manual is currently being reviewed and will be available in January 2012.
Urine Specimen
The urine specimen lid contains a sharp spike; therefore, must be disposed in a sharps container.

C. difficile and Norovirus
Red dot in upper right corner of a Contact Precautions sign = C. difficile
Blue dot in upper right corner of Contact Precautions sign = Norovirus

- Private Room (cohort if needed)
- Contact Isolation Sign with Red or Blue Dot on door/chart
- Gel IN/Wash OUT sign on door (Handwashing with soap and water)
- Transport Communication Sheet - indicate specific precautions
- Bleach Wipes available (room dispensers)
- PPE (gowns and gloves) - stock isolation caddies
- Yellow Linen Hamper in room
- DO NOT REMOVE Contact Isolation Sign until room is terminally cleaned upon patient transfer or discharge
- Room must be cleaned with a bleach disinfectant
- TRU-D disinfection upon discharge

Ascom Phone Cover Cleaning Guidelines
Cleaning instructions for the Ascom phone covers (also known as raincoats or silicone gloves) are listed below:

- Isopropyl alcohol, 70% concentration
- Chlorine bleach, 3% solution: 1 part 5.25% sodium hypochlorite bleach concentrate in 30 parts water
- Mild soap in water (dish washing detergent solution)
- Asepti wipes

Happy Holidays!