

pulse



A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Earplugs, anyone?

Noise, vibrations and construction activity has moved into high gear at LMH over the past couple of weeks. A lobby, quiet room and other relocations have taken place to accommodate construction efforts on the south wing proper. Other relocations have taken place in the Conrad Building. Employee, physician and patient-parking relocations are also on the list of recent changes. So thank you, everyone, for putting up with the disruption as we move toward a new 90-bed addition that will also house a new emergency department and urgent-care clinic. Regular and timely advisories about LMH construction activity are sent via email to all LMHers. Community members and others who wish can read the same advisory on the hospital's web page. They can be directed to www.lodihealth.org to click on the red "Construction Updates" link on the home page. In a sympathetic effort to help patients tolerate the noise factor with as much ease as possible, 4,000 earplugs arrived last week and were distributed to nursing stations and patient advocates throughout the campus. A big thank you to the Facilities staff for managing this transition, and many more to come, and to hospital staff for their assistance, patience and, as ever, always putting the patient first. The two-year construction effort requires the cooperation of all and will be well worth it. The result will be greater comfort and privacy for patients – and more of it – and a beautiful facility in which we can all provide excellent patient care. A shout out to Judy Merritt as well for her construction holiday tree, (*Tak Saito, ext. 7680*).

Lab remodel calls for relocation

On Dec. 18, the Conrad Laboratory will close its patient-service center for approximately four weeks. The lab will undergo a remodeling of the patient-registration area. Patients should go to the plaza service center for their laboratory needs during the remodel. LMH will do everything in its power to minimize patient inconvenience during this period, (*Dave Mack, ext. 7420*).

Parking is for patients first

A reminder to all LMH staff: Due to the construction at the hospital, parking has become a challenge. The Conrad Laboratory has lost most of its parking lot as a result. The few spaces remaining must be used for patient parking. All staff are asked to please not park in the Conrad parking lot at any time. Please remember, the first consideration must go to patients, (*Dave Mack, ext. 7420*).

Welcome two new physicians



Orellana

Manuel Orellana, MD, returns to LMH as an infectious-disease physician. He graduated from the Universidad de Guayaquil in Ecuador. He completed his internship at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and a fellowship in infectious disease at Stanford.

Dr. Orellana is board certified in internal medicine. Madhavi Ravipati, MD, joins the Gill OB-GYN Group. Dr. Ravipati graduated from SRI Venkatesvara Medical College in Tirupati, India. She completed her internship and residency in OB/GYN at Saint Joseph Hospital in Chicago, (*Linda Brown, ext. 7669*).

Insurance mergers impact customers

Last month legislators on Capitol Hill heard complaints about insurers becoming too large. Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) reported that "physicians and other providers must be able to operate on a level playing field with health insurers and be reimbursed at fair rates. If not, quality of care will decline, and it is the patients who ultimately will suffer." Here are some of the facts presented (reported by Decision Health, Nov. 2007): In the last 15 years, 95 separate payers shrunk to only seven. In the last decade, 400 payers merged. Mergers of payers in California produced fee cuts to physicians of 20 to 30 percent. Two payers – United (33 million lives) and WellPoint (34 million) – control 36 percent of the commercial market. Rising health-care costs due to consolidations cause more small businesses to drop coverage, rising the ranks of the uninsured 16 percent in one year, to 47 million in 2006. The percentage of small employers (three to nine employees) that offer coverage dropped from 57 percent in 2000 to 45 percent in 2007, (*Karel Cole, ext. 7650*).

CMS tightens reimbursement

On Oct. 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) inaugurated changes to diagnosis-related groups (DRGs). The rationale was to better identify and target payments based on patients' acuity and complexity of care. Principal diagnosis, complications and co-morbidities (secondary diagnoses), surgical procedures, age, gender and discharge disposition determine patient acuity. CMS also issued new rules that end payment for the following eight conditions resulting from medical errors or conditions that otherwise could have reasonably been prevented: pressure ulcers, catheter-associated urinary-tract infections (UTIs), vascular catheter-associated infection, air embolism, blood incompatibility, objects left in the body during surgery, surgical-site infection-mediastinitis and falls/injuries resulting in fractures, dislocations or burns. While hospitals are now obligated to report a "present on admission" (POA) indicator for every diagnosis, starting 2008 CMS will no longer reimburse hospitals at the higher rate for any of the eight complications listed unless they are documented as POA. LMH is in the business of caring. Please work to align quality of patient care to the new rules by being proactive on patients' behalfs and preventing adverse events and complications. Prevention of pressure ulcers, UTIs and injuries fall under the domain of nursing and call for evidence-based practice to ensure quality care. Nurses must pay special attention to POA indicators with complete and accurate documentation on admission and throughout the hospital stay. Not only will documentation support physicians' notes and help distinguish the patients with the major complications and co-morbidities, it will also be a reflection of quality and caring, (*Kelly Stump, ext. 7997*).

IRS announces 2008 mileage rates

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued the 2008 optional standard-mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning Jan. 1, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be: 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven; 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, (*Cindy Butler, ext. 7513*).

NFS staffers excel during drill

Drills are designed to prepare staff to know what to do during code situations. Two individuals recently did an outstanding job during such a drill. Leslie Vannorsdall, Nutrition and Food Services, took up post at the exterior door of the cafeteria during a recent "Code Pink" drill at the main campus on Dec. 13. A gentleman was leaving the cafeteria, and Leslie asked to check the bag he was carrying due to the possible infant abduction. The man complied and went on his way. Way to go, Leslie! He was able to effectively communicate with the individual and ruled him out as a potential suspect. Janet Okafuji, Environmental Services, was enlisted to assist with the drill by carrying a bag, posing as the abductor. She did an excellent job, also. Hardly anyone suspected her. She slowly and deliberately walked through the second floor and down the steps, and as she entered the first floor, she was stopped by Julia Juarez, also Nutrition and Food Services, who was stationed at the main elevator. Julia asked to look in her bag. Excellent job, Julia! Way to go on being observant to stop her to ask to see the contents of her bag due to the potential infant abduction. Great job to all LMH staffers who were vigilant and knew their roles during the drill, (Gayle Moses, ext. 7668).

Welcome back, Ed



The Pharmacy Department is pleased to welcome back Ed Anamizu, Pharm. D, to LMH. Ed rejoins the LMH staff after spending four years at Kaiser Permanente as outpatient-pharmacy manager. Ed is taking LMH's newly created clinical-pharmacist position and will be responsible for coordinating the clinical-pharmacy services offered by the department. Ed will oversee pharmacy participation in multidisciplinary patient-care rounds, provide the hospital and medical staff with drug information, assist with the ongoing review and revision of the drug formulary, ensure appropriate antibiotic use, participate in medication-use evaluations and serve as preceptor for pharmacy interns. We look forward to working with Ed to expand and grow our clinical-pharmacy services, (Sandy Atwater, ext. 7555).

Supervisor comes on board



Please welcome Valerie Mustin to the LMH Clinic Management Team. Valerie has assumed the clinic-billing-supervisor position. She brings to the organization more than 20 years of experience in health-care management and billing. She has joined LMH from Sutter Connect and appreciates

returning to Lodi and re-joining the Lodi health-care community. Welcome aboard, (Lisa Nordell, ext. 7620).

Perinatal welcomes three



Dabill



Campus



Zazzarino

The Perinatal Department welcomes three new employees. Faith Dabill, RN, joins the team as a full-time, night-shift nurse. Faith has seven years med-surg experience at John Muir Hospital in Concord. Tammy Campus, RN, returns to LMH, as a part-time, day-shift nurse, after four years of working at Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. Tammy has seven years experience in perinatal nursing. Sherry Zazzarino is training to become an OB technician and works part-time on the night shift, (Lesley Muscha, ext. 7554).

OB pays it forward



The Perinatal "pay-it-forward" project collected over 80 gifts for the children at Lodi House, a shelter for women and kids. Thank you to those who donated toys and clothing. Special thanks to Tanna Schreyer and her daughter, Kristen Meath, who took this project to heart and raised money from their friends to ensure that every child had at least two gifts. Not pictured – Jimmy Perryman, who graciously delivered the gifts.

Way to go, LMH

LMH collected 280 pink lids for Yoplait's "Save Lids to Save Lives" campaign to raise funds for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The lids were mailed in during the first week of December. Thank you to all participants, (Melinda Sparks, ext. 7401).

The 12 ways to health are...

The first way to health, said the CDC to me, **wash hands** to be safe and healthy. The second way to health, said the CDC to me, **bundle up for warmth**. The third way to health, said the CDC to me, **manage stress**. The fourth way to health, said the CDC to me, **don't drink and drive**. The fifth way to health, said the CDC to me, **be smoke-free**. The sixth way to health, said the CDC to me, **fasten belts while driving**. The seventh way to health, said the CDC to me, **get exams and screenings**. The eighth way to health, said the CDC to me, **get your vaccinations**. The ninth way to health, said the CDC to me, **monitor the children**. The tenth way to health, said the CDC to me, **practice fire safety**. The eleventh way to health, said the CDC to me, **prepare dinner safely**. The twelfth way to health, said the CDC to me, **eat well and get moving**, prepare dinner safely, practice fire safety, monitor the children, get your vaccinations, get exams and screenings, fasten belts while driving, be smoke-free, don't drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy, (Schyerle Beal, ext. 7521).

How to submit to/find "Pulse"

All medical staff, hospital staff and volunteers are welcomed to submit items for "Pulse." Items should be between 50-150 words and pertain to LMH news, milestones or events. Items should be directed via in-house mail to the Community Development Department or via email to Lori Horan or Carol Farron. "Pulse" is published every other Monday, and items for the newsletter should be received by 8a the preceding Friday. "Pulse" can be accessed electronically via the LMH network (L:\News & Announcements\Internal\Pulse) or on the LMH website, www.lodihealth.org. Those who would like to receive "Pulse" via e-mail should contact Lori Horan, ext. 7590, or send an e-mail to lhoran@lodihealth.org, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Fan mail

A patient writes to LMH Galt Medical Services' physician Jorge Ocegueda, MD: *Many thanks to you and your staff for making my first visit to your office a pleasant time. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.*