

extra

news for
Owensboro
Medical Health
System employees

Our Mission is to heal the sick and to improve the health of our community. January 4, 2008

O'Bryan, Peech join Pennryle Pulmonary Critical Care

William O'Bryan, MD, and Deborah Peech, ARNP, have joined Pennryle Pulmonary Critical Care (PPCC), a practice established by OMHS that specializes in treating patients with pulmonary and sleep disorders or those in need of critical care medicine.



William
O'Bryan, MD

O'Bryan will specialize in outpatient pulmonary and sleep medicine. He is board certified in internal medicine and holds special qualifications in pulmonary and critical care medicine. He also serves as medical director for the OMHS Sleep Lab.



Deborah Peech,
ARNP

Peech is an advanced registered nurse practitioner, holding credentials in family practice from the American Nurses Association. She has specialized in sleep and pulmonary medicine since June 2001. She began practice as a registered nurse in 1990.

O'Bryan and Peech join pulmonologists Lalith Uragoda, MD, and Lingamurthy Ravi, MD, who also practice pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine and Angela Flener, ARNP, who has ten years of critical care experience.

OMHS opened PPCC on April 1, 2007 to help meet the pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine needs for patients in the region.

O'Bryan and Peech previously shared an office with PPCC and will remain in the same location on the third floor of the Breckenridge Medical Plaza, 1000 Breckenridge Street, Suite 300. Their new phone number is 685-7150.



A group of facilities and laundry personnel have been hard at work over the last several months looking for ways to not only improve service, but to help control costs for our organization. With over 10,000 pounds of laundry being processed each day, efficiency is key to this critical department.

Trash or treasure: the value of linens

Did you know that the 20-member crew in the OMHS laundry/linen department processes about 10,000 pounds of laundry every day?

This busy team plays a fundamental role in caring not only for our patients, but for our bottom line as well. A group of facilities and laundry personnel have been hard at work over the last several months looking for ways to not only improve service, but to help control costs for our organization.

One major issue that has been identified is the unnecessary disposal of OMHS linens. In many cases, employees are disposing of linen that they assume is too soiled for cleaning or is contaminated in some way. Many are unaware that ALL laundry that enters the linen area is treated as if it is contaminated or infectious.

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Register on-line now for your 2008 HIP screening!

WKU to offer stats course in spring

Western Kentucky University (WKU) will be offering PH 520, Vital and Medical Stats starting in January 2008.

The course will be offered to students beginning the week of January 22, on the Owensboro Community and Technical College campus. The class will meet on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m.

To register for the course, students must complete the application for WKU graduate school (www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Graduate/). The CRN number for registration is also required. The CRN for this course is 33288.

For more information on this or any other nursing continuing education opportunities, please contact Laura Gillim at 688-2697 or lgillim@omhs.org.



HIPAA Corner

Question:

You hear about free software on the Internet that may help you with your work. Which of the following is the safe security practice?

- A. You download it to your computer
- B. You ask your manager if she's heard about it
- C. You call the help desk or your security contact for their assistance
- D. You download it at home and bring it to work on a CD
- E. You ask a co-worker to download it and test it

Answer: C.

We place great importance on the confidentiality and security of our patient's information. These reminders are designed to refresh your memory about your role in information security.

If you have any questions or concerns related to information privacy or security, please contact DeAnn Tucker at 688-1090 or Mark Miller at 852-8525.

Getting ready for Joint Commission Spring 2008 survey

Question:

What do you do if a piece of medical equipment malfunctions?

Answer:

There are five things you should do if you have an equipment failure:

- Take it out of service
- Complete and attach a red defective tag to the equipment
- Complete a biomed work order found on the hospital intranet
- Call facilities
- If patient was affected, fill out incident report

Question:

Where are the oxygen valves located on your unit and who is authorized to shut off the oxygen valves in the event of a fire or another emergency?

Answer:

You should be able to point out the location of the oxygen valves on your unit. The charge nurse is authorized to shut off the oxygen valves in a fire or other emergency.

Information about Flexible Spending Benefits Cards

Employees who elected to participate in the 2008 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program during open enrollment should now have their Flexible Spending Benefits Cards.

The flexible spending benefits card is a special-purpose MasterCard® that offers an easy, automatic way to pay for qualified healthcare expenses. This special card allows users to electronically access the pre-tax dollars set aside in their Flexible Spending Account (FSA).

The cards can be used only for qualified healthcare/benefits expenses. It cannot be used, for instance, at gas stations or restaurants. There are no monthly bills and no interest.

It is important that card holders save all itemized bills or Explanation of Benefit (EOB) forms for purchases made with your flexible spending benefits card. You may be asked to submit those documents to verify that your expenses comply with IRS guidelines. You will be notified if there is a need to submit a receipt.

If receipts are not submitted as requested, then the card may be suspended until receipts are received. In some cases, you may be required to re-pay the amount charged. Submitting a receipt or repaying the amount in question will allow the card to become active again.

For those who participated in the 2007 FSA Plan Year and chose to re-enroll for 2008, your card is still effective. Your 2008 balance will be accessible using the same

card after January 1, 2008. However, it is important to remember that you should not use your flexible benefits card to pay for purchases that were incurred in 2007.

If you have a balance remaining from your 2007 FSA election and you have reimbursable charges incurred in 2007, you must pay the charges from your own money and submit a manual claim. You will be reimbursed up to the remaining balance of your 2007 election. The claim will be processed and you will receive a reimbursement check. For claim forms or for answers to your flex account questions, contact Meritain Health at 1-800-455-1938.



Bunco Party

The Activities Committee will be hosting a Bunco Party on Friday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Center Street Conference Center.

All OMHS employees are welcome to attend and to bring a guest. The Bunco Party will cost \$5 per person, and will include door prizes, game prizes and snacks.

Those interested in playing should contact Lisa Knott at 685-7713 or Rhonda Gray at 685-7550.

From front: Trash or treasure

The unnecessary disposal of linens is an expense issue not only for the laundry/linen area, but contributes to the hospital's hazardous waste disposal expenses as well.

What can you do? ALL linens, regardless of their condition, are to be placed in the blue laundry bags. Even items which are torn or otherwise damaged are put to use after completing the laundry process. In many cases, these damaged linens are able to take on a new role as a rag for facilities or in some other capacity within the hospital.

If you see a co-worker begin to dispose of linen, please take a moment to remind them that ALL linen is to be properly secured for collection and returned to the laundry. For more information on laundry/linen services at OMHS, contact Harold Ferrell at 688-3704 or hferrell@omhs.org.



Time to register for 2008 HIP screenings

If you are enrolled for HIP in 2008, registration for the spring HIP screenings is now available through Registrar. Please note that HIP registration is accessible through the Registrar link on the Intranet home page (NOT the HIP link).

Screenings are being offered on the Parrish Campus (on 4 North-West) and at the HealthPark. The following screening dates still have spaces available: February 12, 15, 18, 19, 25, 26, 28, 29, March 6 and 7. Please note that make-up dates will NOT be offered.

The on-line registration can be accessed through the "Registrar" link on the left hand column of the OMHS Intranet home page. While employees are asked to use their Social Security number for the registration process, participants will be using their Lawson number (employee ID number) for all 2008 HIP activities.

Social Security numbers will also be used to register spouses who are enrolled in the program. Employees who have trouble finding their spouse in the system using their Social Security number should contact Sherry Jones at 688-4889.

If you have any problems registering on-line, please contact Sherry Jones at 688-4889. If you have any other questions regarding HIP, please contact Nancy Velotta at 688-4881 or at nvelotta@omhs.org.

Continuing Nursing Education Program

Dr. Maria Smith will be presenting "Diabetes Mellitus Complicating Pregnancy" on January 9, 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. in the New Life Education Classroom.

This session is intended for nurses practicing within prenatal, antepartum/intrapartum and postpartum patient care areas. This offering provides 1.5 CNE for nurses.

The program will offer information regarding the differences in Type I, Type II and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus, the effects of diabetes on the fetus, treatment regimes and the nurse's role in care and counseling.

Pre-registration is required. OMHS staff may complete registration using the Registrar through the Intranet. All other attendees may register by calling Patient Services Education at 688-3050.



The OMHS HealthPark hosted a Zumba Party celebration on New Years Day with lots of fun, prizes, a guest instructor and a preview of the new Zumba Gold class. Over 200 people attended the celebration. Zumba classes are available to both members and non-members. For more information or for class times, call the HealthPark at 688-5433.