Christian Hospital Laboratory awarded highest accreditation honors

Christian Hospital and Northwest HealthCare have been awarded the highest level of accreditation by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) based on the results of recent on-site inspections. Christian Hospital was accredited and congratulated for the excellence of services being provided at both facilities.

"This accomplishment is a direct reflection of our skilled and dedicated laboratory staff," says Greg King, MD, Christian Hospital chief of pathology. "We’re proud of this accreditation because it recognizes the high level of care and service we provide our medical staff and patients."

CAP inspectors examined the records and quality control of the Christian Hospital and Northwest HealthCare laboratories for the preceding two years. Inspectors also scrutinized the education and qualifications of the total staff; the adequacy of facilities, equipment and safety; and department management. Inspectors reviewed 727 checklist questions at NWHC with no deficiencies and 2519 questions at CH with less than 10 deficiencies. "This stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for the laboratory’s patients" says Dr. King. "The CAP is an advocate for high-quality and cost-effective medical care."

"This accreditation is another confirmation of the superior quality of work being performed at Christian Hospital and Northwest HealthCare," notes Ron McMullen, hospital president. "Our laboratory team is to be commended for this outstanding achievement."

2010 Employee Service Award photo shoot March 16

Employees receiving service awards this year for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service have one more chance on March 16 to be photographed for the recognition video to be viewed at the upcoming Employee Service Awards Banquet on May 14 at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel. Invitations will be mailed in April. For more information, please contact Sheryl McClary, ext. 3-5193.

PHOTO SHOOT LAST CHANCE:
Christian Hospital – Center for Training & Development
Detrick Building, 2nd floor, Classroom 1
March 16, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
No appointment is necessary.
Please make every effort to participate. Our goal is to have ALL 2010 service awardees in photos.

Free screenings

Diabetes Alert Day on March 23

We can’t say this enough: 1-in-5 Americans are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Left untreated, diabetes can be deadly. In the early stages, symptoms are subtle and often go unnoticed until the damage has been done. Now you have no excuses. We’ll make it easy for you to get screened on Diabetes Alert Day with two locations and extended hours.
So get screened on March 23!
Location: CH Diabetes Institute, 7 a.m.–3 p.m.
Location: Northwest HealthCare, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
TB testing for employees and volunteers

Occupational Health is now conducting the annual tuberculosis skin testing of all employees and volunteers. Testing is conducted at Christian Hospital in the Occupational Health Department on the first floor near Human Resources; and in designated areas at Northwest HealthCare.

Arms must be read by Occupational Health 48 to 72 hours after the initial skin test placement. NW and GMC employees will have their arms read by a designated employee in the ER.

Employees hired after January 1, 2010, will not need to be retested unless they are due for the second part of their two-step testing.

For more information, contact Occupational Health at ext. 3-5038.

St. Louis County voters have say on future of St. Louis public transit

April 6 ballot initiative proposes ½ cent sales tax increase to fund Metro operations, future expansion

In April, the future of public transportation in the St. Louis metro region will be in the hands of St. Louis County voters for the second time in less than two years.

Proposition A on the April 6 ballot proposes a ½ cent sales tax to support public transit. Its passage would trigger a similar tax approved by St. Louis City voters in 1997.

The taxes are projected to generate a combined total of more than $80 million annually to sustain operations and fund future growth of Metro bus service, MetroLink light rail and Call-a-Ride vans for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. According to Citizens for Modern Transit, the sales tax increase would cost the average St. Louis County family approximately $4 per month, or less than $1 each week.

Turn to page 2 of this week’s BJC Today (March 8 issue) to read more on Proposition A and what some BJC employees have to say.

Win $10,000 or an iTouch in the Auxiliary Charity Ball drawings!

Get your tickets for the Auxiliary’s $10,000 Charity Ball cash drawing and chances to win an iTouch and docking station (retail value $350)! Each ticket for the $10,000 drawing is $100 and there will only be 250 tickets sold; each ticket to win the iTouch system is $10. This is a great way to support the Auxiliary and their fund-raising mission to improve patient care and services. Employees might want to think about pooling their money together to purchase a ticket and split the winnings, which happened several times. Tickets can be purchased in the Volunteer office Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The drawing will be held at the Charity Ball on April 10 at the Living World at the St. Louis Zoo.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Not counting skin cancers, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer found in men and women in this country. Colorectal cancer is estimated to cause 49,960 deaths in 2009. The sad truth is that it doesn’t have to. Colorectal Cancer is preventable. If you are aged 50 or older (sooner if a first degree relative has a history of colon cancer or you have certain conditions affecting the colon), you should get a colonoscopy.

Visit the colorectal cancer awareness booth in the Courtyard Café on Thursday, March 4 to get additional information on colon cancer. You can also register to win a $25 gas card. Help us change the statistics on this preventable disease and don’t delay, get tested today!

‘Dine with the Doctor’ features Antonio Penilla, MD

Christian Hospital employees are invited to a "Dine with the Doctor" program on March 16 at noon in Conference Center A, Room 2310 on the 2nd floor of the hospital. Antonio Penilla, MD, will present an update on our HeartWatch Program. All employees are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided and participants can obtain 1 Education Unit. Registration is required via Cornerstone, or by contacting Angela Shanks at ext. 3-5187. Space is limited so don’t miss out! See the attached flyer for details.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 14

Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, March 14, at 2 a.m. Please remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.
Celebrate National Nutrition Month Each Wednesday

March is National Nutrition Month and the Food Service Department wants to celebrate with you! This year’s campaign focuses on “Savor the Flavors of Herbs and Spices,” which is “Eating Right from the Ground Up.” Registered dietitians are the essential providers of food and nutrition and we want to share some information and fun with the staff during the month of March. Join our team of dietitians in the Courtyard Café on the following Wednesdays: March 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and grab some goodies. We want to challenge your knowledge on “Herbs and Spices.”

We want empower you to make knowledgeable decisions when buying, storing, cooking your own spices or growing our own herbs during the summer, which is essential to maintaining good flavor. We also want to illustrate the health benefits of incorporating these foods into your daily diet!

On March 24 we will be having a recipe contest. There are three categories to enter: side dish/appetizer, entrée, and dessert. Please see the dietitians prior to the 24 to sign up. We are also hosting a food drive all month long. Non-perishable food items can be donated at the drop box in the back of the cafeteria. Each week a brief interactive activity will be available to test your knowledge and gifts will be awarded to our top winners!

Team captains and walkers needed for American Heart Walk

Christian Hospital needs team captains and walkers to raise funds for the American Heart Walk. Participation is optional for the one- or three-mile walk on Saturday, May 15, at Busch Stadium in downtown St. Louis. Walkers can be employees, family members, friends, etc. The goal is to have 35 teams and raise $20,000. Go to www.metrostlouisheartwalk.org to learn more about the walk.

For more information, contact Al Hibbett at ext. 3-5770 or awh7885@bjc.org.

Teams prepare to pilot new workflows

Beginning in March, the Clinical Workflow Initiative (CWI) will test many of the new workflows created by employee design teams during the past year. This will provide an opportunity for frontline staff to pilot the processes and provide feedback to ensure the success of the new designs when they go-live at community hospitals later this year.

The new technology builds created by IS staff to support the new processes must be tested in a training environment. While teams would prefer to pilot various workflows in selected patient care units at different community hospitals, it is not possible because once the new programming is live at one hospital it is live at all hospitals currently using McKesson. As a result, alternative pilot methods have been selected.

One method is referred to as a “conference room simulation.” Clinical staff will take patient case studies and apply them in a conference room setting using the new technology in a training mode. Using this approach will not impact hospitals now using Horizon Clinical modules to support patient care. The week-long pilot will be repeated twice, using a different team of participants from community hospitals during each week. Each session will include an RN from each community hospital and clinicians from each discipline. The conference room pilots will be conducted at Christian Hospital during the weeks of March 22 and 29. Following these simulations, the processes will be analyzed for problem areas and changes made to correct and strengthen the workflow and enabling technology.

In late April, the second type of pilot will be used to test the revised workflows. It is called “parallel shadowing.” The pilot participants will shadow a clinician at a community hospital performing their patient care duties using current processes and technology, but will apply the new processes and technology in a test mode. Following this pilot in late April, teams will correct any additional problems and finalize training content for end user training at Parkland Health Center during May.

Parkland will be the first hospital to go-live with the new workflows on July 10, followed by Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital and Boone Hospital Center in August and September respectively. Hospitals currently using McKesson will all go-live with the new processes and enhanced Horizon Clinical modules by the end of this year. Watch for more details as pilots are completed and training begins!
BJC Help for Your Health marks Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with exercise equipment contest; registration form attached

For the second year, BJC Help for Your Health will again support this important campaign. ONE employee aged 50 or older OR who has a personal or family history of colorectal cancer will have a chance to win exercise equipment by showing commitment to colorectal cancer prevention in 2010.

Eligible employees must pledge to schedule a screening test in 2010, based on the American Cancer Society guidelines or the advice of their physician, promote healthy nutrition and exercise in 2010, and turn in the completed form by March 31 (see attached). ONE employee will be chosen from all entries and will win a piece of exercise equipment (i.e., treadmill, stationary bike, or elliptical trainer) valued at $1,000.

The focus of the program is to encourage employees to be aware of the need for colorectal cancer screenings, what the guidelines are, and to commit to have a screening in 2010. Attached is a pledge form for your use.

It is the decision of each hospital and service organization as to how you wish to conduct and communicate your campaign. For this campaign, employees must return forms directly to Kathleen Killion as indicated on the form no later than March 31. A winner will be selected by April 9. Health Literacy will pay the taxes on this employee gift.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to support health literacy initiatives!

Brenda Ray winner of the Standard of the Month Activity!

Brenda Ray, Outpatient Lab, is the recipient of an MP3 player after she performed perfect AIDET to win the Standard of the Month activity. The drawing was held on March 4 by the Standards Team and included everyone who performed AIDET during the activity held on February 23 and March 3 in the Courtyard Café and Northwest HealthCare. Thanks to the Inpatient Satisfaction Team for their participation in this activity and congratulations to Brenda!

Darryl Calmese writes on ‘Do You Know an Alcohol Abuser?’ in North County Journal

Look for an article in next week’s North County Journal (March 17) from Darryl Calmese pictured here, from Christian Hospital’s North County Recovery Center, on “Do You Know an Alcohol Abuser?”

The North County Journal features articles each month written by our physicians and clinicians for its “House Call” column designed to inform and educate readers on medical issues and healthy lifestyles. Articles written and already published are available for viewing on the Christian Hospital website, www.christianhospital.org.

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