

HIGHLIGHTS

LCHC's Employee Newsletter

HOSPITAL HEROES AWARD CEREMONY



LCHC is proud to share that Dr. Kenneth Anderson has been selected as a 2019 Iowa Hospital Hero by the Iowa Hospital Association. The award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, October 9th at 8:15 AM at the Iowa Hospital Association Annual Meeting. LCHC employees are invited and encouraged to attend. You do not need to register to attend the Hospital Heroes Awards Ceremony. For more information, contact Jena Wiley in Marketing at x3219 or jwiley@lchcia.com

LCHC CONTINUES TO IMPROVE INDEX RANKINGS

Lucas County Health Center has received their latest Hospital Strength Index Performance Report from The Chartis Group. The Hospital Strength Index is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance and is the foundation for many of rural healthcare's most prominent awards, including the National Rural Health Association's Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals.

The Index Ranking is a percentile ranking of performance across eight pillars, including inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge, and finance. Each hospital then receives a composite score which is computed as a percentile rank of the sum of all eight pillars.

In the last few years, LCHC has put a spotlight on improving the quality and outcomes of their services and it shows, both when compared to their peers and when compared to themselves. The median composite score for critical access hospitals throughout the state of Iowa is 66.6 and, in the latest Index Rankings, LCHC received a composite score of 89.5.

"This ranking reflects all our staff's efforts in improving the quality of care for our community," said Brian Sims, CEO. "I could not be prouder of our providers, leaders, and staff."

When compared to the previous year's composite scores, LCHC has seen a significant improvement in their overall index rankings and has seen a 12.5 point rise from their overall composite score of 77 in June 2018. In the last six months alone, LCHC's score has risen from 80.3 to 89.5.

A-TEAM HALLOWEEN

A-Team will celebrate Halloween with a pumpkin decorating and costume contest!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest: A-Team will provide pumpkins to departments that sign up to participate. Pumpkins will be distributed by October 24th and will need to be returned on October 28th. Voting will begin on October 30th with the winner being announced on November 1st. The winning department will receive a prize!

NOTE: DEPARTMENTS MUST SIGN UP FOR A PUMPKIN. BE SURE YOUR MANAGER HAS DONE THIS.

Costume Contest: Employees are encouraged to participate in our costume contest. Costumes can be done as an individual or as a group. Pictures will be taken at 10 AM on Thursday, October 31. Voting will begin the same day and the winner will be announced on November 1st. Winner(s) receive a prize!

HUDDLES

Medical Clinic
Daily at 7:45 AM

Finance
Tues., Fri. at 11:15 AM

Med/Surg
Daily at 3 PM

Rad/ED/Amb/Lab
Mon., Tues., Thurs.
at 11:15 AM

HAZARDOUS WASTE PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL

Effective August 21st, new EPA laws affect all staff who work with pharmaceutical waste of any kind. This includes Housekeeping, All Nursing, Outpatient Clinics, ER. These laws were adopted in their entirety by the State of Iowa and the Board of Pharmacy. LCHC is considered by the EPA as a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) which is the best category to be in. The pharmacy department has determined all hazardous waste pharmaceuticals at LCHC and is required to weigh and report monthly to the EPA certain hazardous materials. It is extremely important to dispose of our pharmaceutical waste appropriately so we can maintain our VSQG status. Below are the most important changes:

1. A few medications are labeled with black stickers that read RCRA. This identifies the HAZARDOUS DRUGS Pharmacy is required to weigh and store in a specific container that will be shipped to the appropriate hazardous waste company for disposal. This includes coumadin tablets that need to be wasted. However empty unit dose papers go directly into the regular trash for our regular landfill trash disposal. The EPA has determined if a syringe, vial, unit dose wrapper, etc. is empty it is no longer hazardous so place it in the regular trash. We also must keep track of any hazardous waste so if only ½ vial of ketorolac, which is a RCRA drug, is used, the remaining ½ vial must be returned in a specially designated RCRA black bag for pharmacy to record the waste on and dispose of properly. Please **DO NOT** dispose of anything identified as RCRA in a red controlled substance or yellow chemo waste container. Also please do not put controlled substances or chemo in the black bags or containers.
2. No more drain disposal of controlled substances. Both ER and Med Surg have Controlled Substance waste containers where both injectable and oral controlled products are to be wasted. Continue to have this destruction witnessed in Omnicell. Please do not put in the black bag and return to the pharmacy—empty vials, syringes, etc go in the red sharps container.
3. Many IV fluids can still safely be drain disposed. All of our large volume IV solutions, even those with KCL, Magnesium and Calcium added. Exceptions are unused antibiotics, chemotherapy, and any labeled with a black RCRA sticker. They are to be returned to pharmacy in a black bag if unused or partially used.

More information will follow and charts will be posted in all appropriate areas. Please contact the Pharmacy Department with any questions or concerns.

OCTOBER		1	2	3	4	5
			Mammos & Massages Radiology, 1 - 3 PM			Shock Walk Cinder Path 10 AM
6	7 Welcome to Medicare Seminar Education Room, 4:30 - 6:30 PM	8 Diabetes Support Group Education Room 6:30 PM	9	10	11 New Employee Training Education Room 8:30 AM	12
13	14	15	16 Nutman Sale Atrium, 10 AM - 4 PM BLS Training: 8 AM First Aid Training: 3 PM CPR Training: 6 PM Education Room	17 Benefit Education Education Room, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM Nutman Sale Atrium, 7:30 AM - 2 PM	18	19
20	21	22	23 Mammos & Massages Radiology, 1 - 3 PM PALS (Full Course) Education Room, 9 AM - 5 PM	24 PALS (Full Course) Education Room, 9 AM - 5 PM	25	26
27	28 Pumpkin Contest (Pumpkins Due) Atrium, 10 AM	29 Board Meeting Board Room, 6:30 PM	30 Managers Meeting Educ. Room, 2 PM	31 Costume Contest Atrium, 10 AM Collective Goods Sale Atrium 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM		

ANNIVERSARIES

23 Years:

Steve Hoch - October 7

19 Years:

Denise Smith - October 23

12 Years:

Diane Caruthers - October 15

10 Years:

Christina Umbenhower -
October 28

8 Years:

Heidi Alexander - October 17

7 Years:

Kerri Guthrie - October 8

6 Years:

Jenny Brown - October 30

4 Years:

Amy Poncelow - October 5
Lindsey Rosenboom - October 5
Brian Sims - October 5

3 Years:

Brooklin Atwell - October 12
Jennie Hall - October 26

2 Years:

Dr. Williams - October 1

1 Year:

Nora Ogle - October 1
Christine Buttell - October 8
Talia Torres - October 16
Chasity Musick - October 22

BIRTHDAYS

October 3 - Debra Cockerham
October 4 - Shelley Quillin
October 5 - Cindy Gustafson
October 6 - Branigan Head
October 6 - Maxine Taylor
October 14 - Lori Boland
October 17 - Lisa Clark
October 17 - Ben Shelton
October 23 - Elena Ilyenko
October 24 - Jena Wiley
October 25 - Nick Howell
October 28 - Jim Cain
October 31 - Austin Rinehart

CHANGES TO PODIATRY SERVICES

Lucas County Health Center is pleased to welcome Eric Muhm, DPM to our team.



Dr. Muhm grew up in LeMars, Iowa and attended the University of Iowa for his undergraduate. He received his Doctor of Podiatry from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Muhm completed his residency at Detroit Medical Center, where he served as Chief Resident. He is board certified in foot surgery and has more than six years of diverse experiences, especially in Podiatry.

"We are excited to have Dr. Muhm join our medical team. His expertise will be a great addition to LCHC," said Brian Sims, CEO.

Dr. Muhm is looking forward to being part of LCHC's team of medical providers where a positive patient experience comes first. He will be accepting new patients soon.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

We often get calls from employees needing assistance with HealthStream, wellness points or policies. Below is the contact information for the folks who oversee each of those programs!

HealthStream
Darcy Juline
x3204
djuline@lchcia.com

Policy Software
Shannon Holmes - x3222
sholmes@lchcia.com

Wellness
Human Resources
Shelley Quillin - x3203 or squillin@lchcia.com
Marian Holmes - x3216 or mholmes@lchcia.com

COMPLIANCE

What goes up must come down. All health IT systems will experience downtimes, whether planned or unplanned. Downtime procedures are simply the instructions that detail how you will operate until systems are available again. It is important to understand what you need to do. Pull out those green Epic binders and get reading!

Do you know where your downtime procedures are located? If not, ASK! Contact Lori Johnson at x3360.

SAFETY: DO YOU HAVE A POWER STRIP?

Do you have a power strip under your desk or in your department? Do you need it? Is it an approved metal power strip? Fire code limits the use of power strips in a health care setting. We are attempting to remove as many power strips as possible from the facility. If you have a power strip, especially one that is plastic, talk with your manager and have them enter a work request for a Maintenance assessment to see if additional outlets are possible or if a metal power strip is warranted.

Questions? Contact Calvin Dyer in Maintenance at x3228.

COMPANY STORE

Cold weather is coming (whether we want it or not!)

Don't forget that LCHC's Company Store has a wide variety of items, including jackets, polos, fleece, and more! Employees who purchase clothing through the company store can have it payroll deducted.

If you're looking for something in particular or would like to see a catalog, contact Jena Wiley in Marketing at x3219 or jwiley@lchcia.com.

WELCOME!

Raeshel Andrews

CNA/Ward Clerk - Med/Surg

Kassidy Stark

Communication Specialist - Business Office

Ashley Davis

Environmental Tech - Housekeeping

Kendall Hard

CNA/Ward Clerk - Med/Surg

Hannah Bullington

Ultrasound Tech - Radiology



Amanda Snider, RN

Amanda

is **1** of **220** reasons
we are a **Top 20**
Critical Access
Hospital in the
nation for quality

Lucas County Health Center has more than 220 team members dedicated to providing our community with quality healthcare, every single day.

LUCAS **LC** COUNTY
HEALTH **HHC** CENTER

An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health


NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Employee Benefit Education

Thursday, October 17th

1:00-2:00 3:00-4:00 5:00-6:00

Education Room

Attendance Optional

Personal Assistance & Information From Company Representatives

Available 1:00 – 6:00

Learn about changes for 2020 plan year!

NEW THIS YEAR: Identity Theft Insurance

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 15 minutes | Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Disability Insurances
Flexible Spending Accounts – Healthcare & Dependent Care
- Renee Walsh, Lamair-Mulock-Condon |
| 15 minutes | Employee Wellness Program
- Tara Malausky, Health Solutions |
| 15 minutes | Employee Assistance Program Resources (EAP)
Legal and Financial Consultation, Telephone & In-person
Counseling, Identity Theft Resolution, Eldercare Consultation
- Terri Smith, Employee & Family Services |
| 15 minutes | Identity Theft, Accident, Cancer, Critical Illness Insurances
and Universal Life Insurances
- Michael O'Donnell, Allstate |

Employee Wellness Screenings

Tuesday, October 22nd and Wednesday, October 23rd

By Appointment Only – Sign up table outside Human Resources

Required to receive over \$1,000 discount in 2020 health insurance premiums

Eligible employees: Plan to enroll in LCHC's 2020 health insurance
Full time prior to 10-15-19

THE

NUTMAN Company

will be here soon!!

150 Fine Quality Nuts, Chocolates, Snack Mixes & Candies

Wednesday, Oct. 16th 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 17th 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Atrium of Lucas County Health Center

Sponsor:

Lucas County Health Center Volunteer Services

**We accept all major credit cards and cash
Payroll Deduction is available at this sale**





Welcome to Medicare

**A free two-hour seminar offered by the State of Iowa's
Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)
and Lucas County Health Center**

“Welcome to Medicare” will cover:

- Medicare Parts A & B benefits
- Prescription Drug Benefits (Part D)
- Medicare Advantage Plans, and
- Medicare Supplement Insurance

Monday, Oct 7, 2019 – 4:30-6:30pm

Check-in at 4:15pm

1200 North 7th St, Chariton

Lucas County Health Center-Education Room

Registration required by September 26

Call (641) 774-3226



SHIIP is a service of the State of Iowa.
It does not sell or promote any insurance
companies, policies or agents



A-TEAM PRESENTS

LCHC HALLOWEEN

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Pumpkins will be distributed by October 24th. Return your pumpkins on Monday, October 28th. Voting will begin on October 30th. Winner announced November 1st. Prize for the winning department! (P.S. Make sure your manager signed your department up for a pumpkin!)

COSTUME CONTEST

LCHC employees are encouraged to participate in our costume contest. Employees can participate as an individual or as a group. Pictures will be taken at 10 AM on Thursday, October 31. Voting will be held the same day with the winner announced on November 1st. Winner(s) receive a prize!



Don't forget

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period
October 15–December 7

Comparing plans can save you money

Make sure you have coverage that meets your drug and health care needs

SHIIP CAN HELP


Lucas County Health Center

(641) 774-3226



SHIIP is a free, confidential, objective service
of the State of Iowa Insurance Division

"ARE YOU READY?"



A LUCAS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER PRODUCTION

PREVENTING THE FLU

STARRING: YOU

COMING SEPTEMBER 2019

WAYS FOR EMPLOYEES TO GET THEIR FLU SHOT:

1. STOP BY INFECTION CONTROL BETWEEN 8:30 AM AND 3 PM DURING THE WEEK
2. WHEN THEY'RE NOT BUSY, YOU CAN GET YOUR SHOT FROM A FLOAT NURSE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

REMEMBER: EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT GET THEIR FLU SHOT MUST WEAR A MASK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1ST.