Today Is the Last Chance to Share Your Voice

The My Voice survey is a way for UPMC leadership to consider your thoughts, feelings, and ideas when planning for the future of UPMC. Today is your last chance to share your honest feedback, so take advantage of the opportunity while it is still here.

Share your voice now.

UPMC and Highmark Statement Addresses Physician Contracts

At Governor Corbett’s request, UPMC has announced that it will continue Highmark physician contracts so they may terminate simultaneously with the hospital contracts on June 30, 2013. As jointly announced by UPMC and Highmark, this date certain provides 18 months for UPMC patients and Highmark subscribers to review the multiple competitive health insurance options now available to assure that their care will continue uninterrupted with UPMC physicians and hospitals. UPMC remains focused on meeting the needs of our patients.

UPMC Shadyside, Shadyside Hospital Foundation Make Patients’ Wedding Dreams Come True

Remember how much time and effort it took to plan your wedding? Imagine organizing two weddings and an engagement party — and holding them over a span of just five days.

That was the herculean task facing staff at UPMC Shadyside. Undaunted, nurses and other clinical staff, as well as colleagues from multiple departments, pooled their talents to create unforgettable celebrations for three couples who, due to medical complications, could not venture outside the hospital to exchange vows or share their joy with family and friends.

“Compassionate care is at the heart of what we do. Our staff will do whatever it takes to help our patients and their families celebrate these once-in-a-lifetime moments and make happy memories,” says Sandy Rader, vice president, Patient Care Services, and chief nursing officer, UPMC Shadyside.
A number of weddings have been held in UPMC hospitals to accommodate the medical needs of the bride or groom, or a parent or grandparent. But the events at UPMC Shadyside were unique because they occurred so close together.

The trio of events kicked off on Dec. 14 with a surprise engagement party on 3 Pavilion for a young man undergoing aggressive chemotherapy treatments and his fiancée. No details were overlooked. For example, Czarina Kulick, a clinical social worker who took the lead planning role for all three events and worked closely with the families, coordinated efforts with Maintenance staff to transform the family lounge into a more intimate setting illuminated by warm light from battery-powered candlesticks.

Love was in the air throughout weekend. Despite an unexpected disease recurrence and hospital admission, another patient and his fiancée were determined to proceed with their original plans to be married on Dec. 17. The next day, an oncology patient on 7 Main exchanged vows with his bride. Staff on 7 Main were joined by co-workers from Social Services, Catering, Patient Relations, and other departments to work with both couples and their families to select table settings, color themes, decorations, and flowers, and complete other arrangements.

“We took steps to make each wedding special. One groom usually travels to the South in the winter. To create some warmth here, we made it a beach-themed wedding,” notes Kelly Sikora, unit director, 7 Main.

Nurses from throughout the hospital also contributed. “We had nurses from other units and departments generously offer to provide coverage for a short time so the 7 Main staff could enjoy these joyous occasions,” adds Ms. Sikora.

**Generous Support From Shadyside Hospital Foundation**
The engagement party and weddings were supported through the WISH (Wellness Initiative Supporting Healing) Project. This grant, awarded by the Shadyside Hospital Foundation, provided funds to the WISH Project, which supports healing beyond physical health. By granting wishes, the project enhances the spiritual, emotional, and psychological components of patients’ lives.

**Show Us Your Creativity! Submit Your Caption Idea**
Have you submitted your caption yet? We need you to help us complete this photo. Here’s what we’re looking for: a 20-word, creative caption that reminds us of the importance of thinking before printing and copying.
We already have received some fantastic submissions — don’t miss your chance to use your creativity and have your caption published! To enter, view the photo, then using the template, write up to a 20-word caption that best describes the photo. E-mail your completed template to CorporateComm2@upmc.edu.

The contest runs until Friday, Dec. 30. The top three captions with the best print reduction messages will be published on Infonet and in Extra, where staff can vote for their favorite caption. The contest winner will be the person whose caption receives the greatest number of votes. We will feature the winning caption with the photo in the February print issue of Extra. Visit the photo caption contest page on Infonet for more details and contest rules and regulations.

UPMC Celebration of Lights Drawing Crowds, More Donations for Charities

More families are enjoying UPMC Celebration of Lights, an annual holiday tradition that transforms Hartwood Acres in northern Allegheny County into a sparkling tribute to the season.

As of Dec. 21, the total number of vehicles to complete the 3.2-mile loop of dazzling displays is 555 ahead of last year’s pace. More importantly, donations are more than $21,600 ahead of those collected in the same period a year ago.

“UPMC is pleased to be the title sponsor for a tradition that so many families enjoy. It is especially satisfying to see the amount of funds raised running well ahead of last year’s,” says Leslie Merrill, senior consultant, Government Relations, UPMC.

There is still time to make UPMC Celebration of Lights a part of your holiday. The event continues nightly through Sunday, Jan. 8.

Sparkle by Helping Others

UPMC Celebration of Lights is much more than a chance to marvel at breathtaking displays from the comfort and warmth of your vehicle. It also is an opportunity to embrace the giving spirit of the season. The suggested donation is $12 a car, regardless of family size or the number of occupants in the vehicle. Funds raised will be used to support Project Bundle-Up and The Woodlands Foundation — two charitable organizations that serve individuals and families in need in western Pennsylvania.

Final Apple iPads Awarded to Staff Who Received Flu Shots

Pritesh Mutha, MD, a resident in the UPMC Graduate Medical Education program, and Kelley Lyle of UPMC Passavant will receive Apple iPads because they rolled up a sleeve and got a flu shot. Staff who received a flu shot — the single best step you can take to protect yourself, loved ones,
patients, and co-workers during this flu season — were eligible to win an Apple iPad 2. UPMC awarded 10 iPads in a series of random drawings held this fall. Dr. Mutha and Ms. Lyle were the final winners.

Opportunities Remain to Get a Flu Shot
No one wants to come down with the flu for the holidays. If you have not already done so, make time to get a flu shot. Flu shots continue to be offered to UPMC physicians, staff, and volunteers at Employee Health offices at all UPMC facilities. In addition, Falk Pharmacy flu clinics will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the end of the year. Falk Pharmacy is located on the second floor of the Falk Medical Building, Fifth Avenue, Oakland.

Payday and Holiday Calendars Available
UPMC 2012 Calendars, listing paydays and paid holidays, are available on Infonet.

Policy Updates
The following systemwide policies were reviewed and updated by the UPMC Policy Review Committee in December 2011. All UPMC policies can be reviewed in their entirety on Infonet.

New policies
HS-LE0014 Legal Hold Directive*

Significant changes
HS-HR0742 Service Provider Classification*

Minor changes
HS-HD-MA-03 Testing of Alcohol/Chemical Levels in Emergency Department Patients*
HS-HD-PR-04 Inpatient Room Assignment for People with Disabilities
HS-FM0228 Radiation Exposure Limits*
HS-HR0706 Licensure, Certification, Registration of Staff Members*
HS-HR0721 Fitness for Duty*
HS-NA0414 Management of Indwelling and External Urinary Catheters Insertion, Care, and Necessity*

No changes
HS-HD-AP-05 Orders for Outpatient Diagnostic Imaging Services by Non-Medical Staff Members*
HS-HD-CP-02 Placebo*
HS-EC1612 Visitor Observation of Patients and Their Protected Health Information*
HS-EC1614 Prohibition on Sale of Protected Health Information*
HS-EC1804 Identity Theft*
HS-FM0229 Lead Protective Garment Checks*
HS-HR0703 Drug-Free Workplace*
HS-HR0710 Post-Offer, Pre-Employment Testing of Final Applicants for the Illicit Use of Drugs*
HS-HR0717 Solicitation*
Paid Time Off (PTO)*
Employment Verifications/Pre-Placement Evaluations/References*
Emergency Credentialing*
Workplace Violence*
Social Networking*
Information Systems Standards and Asset Management*
Fluoroscopy Certification Requirements*
Foreign Currency Exposure and Risk Mitigation*
Collection of Identification Numbers*

Deleted
STD SP0003 Steris System I Processor — Quality Assurance Monitoring
STD SP0004 Steris I System Processor

*With respect to UPMC business units described in the Scope section, this policy is intended to replace individual business unit policies covering the same subject matter. In-Scope business unit policies covering the same subject matter should be pulled from all manuals.

Upcoming Events
For an online listing of upcoming events, visit the Events section found under the What's New tab on Infonet.

Dec. 28
Come watch the Pitt women's basketball team take on Duquesne in the fifth annual Hometown vs. Hunger Game. The game will take place Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Peterson Events Center. You can get discounted tickets to the game by helping out the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. All game day attendees who donate a nonperishable food item will receive a $1 ticket to the game.

Jan. 11
A Pathophysiology of Cancer and Cancer Treatment Modalities class will be held at UPMC Shadyside. The course provides an overview of the principles and roles of various cancer therapies. For more information, click here to be taken to the online course listing, or contact Karen Tondera at 412-623-3652 or at tonderaks@upmc.edu

Jan. 20
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will host the 10th annual Updates of American Society of Hematology (ASH) meeting to present the latest clinically relevant research findings from the 53rd annual ASH symposium. Health care professionals are encouraged to attend to review recent advances in treating patients with hematologic disorders, as well as to learn pertinent issues regarding quality and state-of-the-art care for patients. For more information, call 412-395-2873 or visit www.lls.org/wpaash.
Jan. 28
The Autism Frostbite 5K race at North Park benefits the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD). For more information, contact T.J. Burke at autism_frostbite5k@yahoo.com, or visit www.valleylink1.com/frostbite5k.

Military Couples Sleep Study
Have you or your spouse served in Iraq or Afghanistan military operations? Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh are investigating how sleep affects relationships and health in military couples. You may be eligible if you and your spouse are between the ages of 18 and 45, are married or living together, and at least one member of the couple has served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation New Dawn. Couples who complete the research study will be compensated. All information will be confidential.

Previous issues of Extra can be found on Infonet.
Have a story submission or an idea on how to improve this newsletter? Tell us.

Please print and post for staff who do not have access to e-mail.

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