

practice notes

April 2011

Prewitt Named Medical Director of Infection Control

Malinda Prewitt, M.D., was recently named the medical director of the North Mississippi Medical Center Infection Control Department.

Dr. Prewitt is a multiple board-certified infectious disease specialist with NMMC. She received her medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she also completed her internal medicine residency and infectious diseases fellowship. She has been with NMMC since 2005.

NMMC Behavioral Health Changes

The NMMC Behavioral Health Center has recently added a new service to help referring physicians. Mark Ramsey, M.D., a psychiatrist at NMMC Behavioral Health, is now providing **medication evaluations** for all patients enrolled in intensive outpatient therapy. If a provider needs to make a referral, patients can now be seen within the week to get the therapy and medications that they need. For more information, call (662) 377-3161.

NMMC-Hamilton Helps VHA Inc. Create Leading Practice Blueprint

VHA Inc., the national health care network, has recognized **North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton** as a leading practice hospital for physician communication, which is a key driver of positive patient perceptions about the care that is delivered.

As a leading practice hospital, NMMC-Hamilton worked with VHA clinical experts to develop an electronic blueprint that maps out all of the clinical practices and social practices that have helped NMMC-Hamilton tackle this crucial clinical challenge. Beginning Oct. 1, 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will actually begin

rewarding hospitals that have high patient experience scores through its value-based purchasing program, and physician communication is a key component of the VBP scoring system.

A team of VHA clinical experts recently visited NMMC-Hamilton to study and document the processes NMMC-Hamilton follows to support physician communication. The VHA team and NMMC-Hamilton team collaborated to develop a blueprint that maps out each step in the care process, ensuring that the blueprint outlines transferable knowledge and practice patterns. VHA will disseminate it to 1,400 VHA member hospitals nationwide and encourage them to incorporate the practices into their patient care patterns.

“If other hospitals apply the blueprint that NMMC-Hamilton has helped VHA develop, it will save lives, improve the quality of the care that is delivered and save our nation’s health care system millions of dollars annually,” said Trent Haywood, M.D., JD, chief medical officer at VHA.

VHA has a library of 100 leading practice blueprints, addressing a range of clinical conditions, from acute myocardial infarction care to infection prevention, as well as topics that impact the patient experience. These blueprints are accessible by VHA members via its Leading Practices Portal™.

Understanding Alzheimer’s

The Mississippi Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association is presenting “**Understanding Alzheimer’s**” from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 1400 Clayton Ave., Tupelo.

NMMC physicians Paul Hill, M.D., and Lee Greer, M.D., will present an overview of Alzheimer’s, followed by a panel discussion on caregiving.

For more information or to RSVP call (601) 987-0020.



NORTH MISSISSIPPI
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A monthly newsletter for physicians, certified nurse practitioners
and other health care professionals.

To submit information, call (662) 377-2371.

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NMMC Hospice to Hold Memorial Service May 22

NMMC Hospice will hold a **memorial service and butterfly release** from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 1400 Clayton Ave., Tupelo.

This is a time for families who have lost a loved one on NMMC Hospice over the past six months to honor their loved one and be reunited with Hospice staff and volunteers. The service is held to provide families the opportunity to share memories and feelings with others who understand the grief process.

This is the first time NMMC Hospice will hold a butterfly release as part of the memorial service. "The butterfly release will be a tranquil display of life and remembrance of those we have loved and lost," said Karen Medlock, RN, patient advocate.

Each family will be provided with one butterfly to release during the ceremony, and additional butterflies are available for \$12 each. Anyone who has ever lost a loved one on NMMC Hospice may also purchase a butterfly and participate in the ceremony. Any proceeds will go to the NMMC Hospice Patient Assistance Fund. The deadline to order a butterfly is Friday, April 29.

Sherriff Jim Johnson will be the guest speaker at the memorial service.

For more information on the bereavement care offered by the NMMC Hospice program or the memorial service, call (662) 377-3612 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). Hospice T-shirts are also available to help offset the cost of the butterfly release.

NMMC Class Helps People Manage Diabetes

Whether your patient is recently diagnosed or has lived with diabetes for years, the **Comprehensive Diabetes Self-Management Program** at North Mississippi Medical Center can help.

Sponsored monthly by the NMMC Diabetes Treatment Center, the one-day program will be offered on Tuesday, April 5. The class meets from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The program helps people with diabetes gain control of their disease and reduce medical complications. Discussions include blood sugar

control, acute and chronic complications of diabetes, individualized meal planning, medication management, exercise and psychological aspects associated with the disease. Participants also practice monitoring their own blood sugar levels.

The class is partially covered by Medicare, some private insurance companies and the NMMC Diabetes Assistance Fund. Physician referral is required for this program. The class is held once a month.

To register for an upcoming class or for more information, call (662) 377-2500 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

Summer Health Academy

NMMC will host its eighth annual **Summer Health Academy** from 8 a.m.-noon June 6-10.

Students who are interested in pursuing a health career and have completed the sixth, seventh or eighth grade are eligible. Participation is limited to 25 students who will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, community service and desire to enter a health profession. Students must also submit two letters of recommendation. Application deadline is Friday, April 15.

NMMC's Summer Health Academy will introduce students to various careers in health care while reinforcing positive lifestyle choices. Participants will spend four hours each day with nurses and other health care professionals who are eager to share their expertise and enthusiasm.

Students will tour several nursing units at NMMC, as well as the Wellness Center. Because enrollment is limited, students will be able to interact one-on-one with nurses, physicians, radiologic technologists, pharmacists, physical therapists and other health care staff.

The fee for Summer Health Academy is \$50, which includes educational materials, a T-shirt, snacks and Friday lunch. Applications are available at area schools and by calling the NMMC Employment Services Department at (662) 377-3245 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). Applications can also be downloaded from www.nmhs.net/youth_programs.php. Students who are selected to participate will be notified by May 6.



NMMC to Host National Bereavement Teleconference

NMMC will host “**Spirituality and End-of-Life Care,**” a teleconference presented by the Hospice Foundation of America, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, in Room 21 of the hospital’s East Tower, 830 S. Gloster St.

Hospice Foundation of America’s 18th annual national Living with Grief® program will discuss differences between spirituality and religion, while also addressing spirituality during illness, death and grief; spiritual assessment and empowerment, and life review. The program provides an opportunity for a wide variety of professionals – including doctors, nurses, funeral directors, psychologists, educators, social workers and bereavement counselors – to share and exchange ideas and obtain continuing education credits.

Frank Sesno, director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University, will lead a panel of nationally-recognized experts. A local presentation will follow the teleconference. Attendants are welcome to bring their lunch, and refreshments will be served during the break.

Continuing education credit is available for \$25 by applying online after the program to the Hospice Foundation of America. For more information on the teleconference, call Lorelei McGee at (662) 377-4399 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

IRB Approves, Renews Studies

The NMHS Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently oversees more than 90 biomedical and behavioral studies. The IRB meets monthly and the following studies were approved and renewed at the March meeting.

New Studies

Study: A Phase IIa, Randomized, Double-blind, Sponsor Unblinded, Placebo-controlled, Multiple Dose Study to Evaluate the Pharmacodynamics, Pharmacokinetics and Safety of Anrukizumab in Patients with Active Ulcerative Colitis (B2421003)

Investigators: Stephen Amann, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: The purpose of this study is to compare the effectiveness of anrukizumab with a placebo on treating ulcerative colitis. Anrukizumab works by attaching and blocking a protein called interleukin 13 (IL-13).

Study: An Extension Protocol for Multiple Sclerosis Patients who Participated in Genzyme Sponsored Studies of Alemtuzumab (CAMMS03409)

Investigators: Mark Fletcher, M.D. (PI); Tupelo Neurology Clinic

Summary: This study will serve as an extension study so that patients can continue to receive alemtuzumab, and the long term effects can be studied.

Study: A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind and Placebo-controlled Study of Once Daily BI 201335 120 mg for 24 Weeks and BI 201335 240 mg for 12 Weeks in Combination with Pegylated Interferon - and Ribavirin in Treatment-naïve Patients with Genotype 1 Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (1220.47)

Investigators: John Phillips, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: The purpose of this study is to test the safety and effectiveness of BI 201335 at a once a day dose combined with the standard treatment compared to the standard treatment alone for 48 weeks, for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C infection.

Study: QuickFlex Model 1258T Left Heart Pacing Lead Post Approval Study

Investigators: Jim Stone, M.D. (PI); Karl Crossen, M.D.; Keith Kyker, M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Wanda Ikeda, CFNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to collect information on the safety and long term performance of the QuickFlex left ventricular lead.

Study Renewals

Study: A 12-Week, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study of Asimadoline in Subjects with Diarrhea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome (ASMP3001)

Investigators: Stephen Amann, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: The purpose of this study will determine the safety and efficacy of asimadoline in subjects with diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. Enrollment is open.





Continuing Medical Education

The CME Program is based in the NMMC Education Department and works to provide quality educational programming that will meet general as well as specific professional needs. Please call (662) 377-3826 or the Consult Line at 1-800-952-8101 if you have CME comments and/or suggestions. Select CME programs are by invitation only and are also subject to change. **Please RSVP upon receipt of invitation.** Visit www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal/cme.php for more information.

April 4-5

Women's Health, Newborn & Children's Conference

8 a.m., NMMC North Education Center Auditorium
CME credit will be issued.
Call (662) 377-3900 for more information or to register.

April 9

2011 Spring Cardiology Symposium

8 a.m.
Bancorp South Conference Center at Hilton Garden Inn
CME credit will be issued.
Call (662) 377-3900 for more information or to register.

April 21

Medical Ethics Committee

Are Cancer Treatments Ever Futile?
Dr. Andrew Kellum
7:30 a.m., NMMC North Education Center

May 6

2011 Gum Tree Family Medicine Review

8 a.m., NMMC North Education Center Auditorium
CME credit will be issued.
Call (662) 377-3900 for more information or to register.

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