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Licking Memorial Health Systems

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***Please take a few minutes to read
this month's report on patient
care quality. You'll soon discover
why Licking Memorial Hospital
has been named one of the
nation's Top 100 Hospitals for
three consecutive years!***



**Licking Memorial
Health Systems**

October 2001
Volume 2
Number 10

***Pneumonia
Care***

measurably
different
for your
health!



HEALTH TIPS

Influenza is a highly-contagious, airborne virus, but receiving a flu shot is the best protection for most people. Here are some other flu facts:

- It takes one to three days after flu exposure to become ill.
- The most common complication is pneumonia.
- You cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine.
- The flu virus is spread by sneezing and coughing.

...a community report on patient care quality.



How do we compare?

At Licking Memorial Hospital, we take pride in the care we provide. To monitor the quality of that care, we track specific quality measures and compare them to benchmark measures. Then we publish them so you can draw your own conclusions regarding your health care choices.

1 National pneumonia treatment guidelines recommend that one dose of an antibiotic be given to pneumonia patients within eight hours of arrival to the hospital. This “door-to-antibiotic time” includes diagnostic testing. LMH participates in the Ohio Pneumonia Project, which measures door-to-antibiotic times for hospitals throughout the state.

Percentage of patients receiving antibiotic dose within 8 hours	LMH 2000 ⁽¹⁾	LMH 2001 ⁽²⁾	State ⁽³⁾
	94.3%	94.9%	81.8%

2 Health care quality experts are encouraging hospitals to reduce their door-to-antibiotic time for pneumonia patients from eight hours to within two to four hours of patient arrival.⁽⁴⁾

	LMH 2000 ⁽⁵⁾	LMH 2001 ⁽⁵⁾	LMH Goal	National Goal ⁽⁶⁾
Average door-to-antibiotic time for all LMH pneumonia patients	4.4	2.2	<2	<8
Average door-to-antibiotic time for LMH Emergency Department alone	3.3	2.2	<2	<8

3 According to the national pneumonia treatment guidelines,⁽⁶⁾ a blood culture should be collected before any antibiotics are given to a pneumonia patient to more accurately determine what microorganism is causing the pneumonia.

	LMH 2000 ⁽¹⁾	LMH 2001 ⁽²⁾	State ⁽³⁾
Percentage of patients receiving blood cultures prior to antibiotics	88.2%	77.5%	82.1%

4 Based on the results of the Ohio Pneumonia Project, LMH adopted a clinical practice guideline, implemented standing physician orders and limited the pharmacy’s antibiotic supply to four of the nationally recommended antibiotics.

Recommended antibiotic administered within 24 hours	LMH 2000 ⁽⁵⁾	LMH 2001 ⁽⁵⁾	National Goal ⁽⁶⁾
	95.2%	100%	100%

5 According to the national pneumonia treatment guidelines,⁽⁶⁾ hospitalized patients with a condition that puts them at risk for developing complications from the flu or pneumonia should be screened for, or given, a vaccine while in the hospital.

	LMH 2000 ⁽¹⁾	LMH 2001 ⁽²⁾	State ⁽³⁾
Percentage of high-risk patients screened/given flu vaccine	47.1%	95.0%	24.3%
Percentage of high-risk patients screened/given pneumonia vaccine	52.9%	96.3%	12.9%

6

Those with chronic illness are at high risk for pneumonia. LMH community case managers monitor the health of approximately 850 individuals with chronic medical conditions. As part of their health watch, they track the number of their patients who develop community-acquired pneumonia.⁽⁷⁾

Number per month of case managed patients developing community-acquired pneumonia		
LMH 2000	LMH 2001	LMH Goal
2	2	3 or less

7

A common quality indicator that is measured for all diseases is mortality rate. Pneumonia is a serious illness and represents a major cause of mortality in our country.

Percentage of mortalities for pneumonia patients	
LMH 2000 ⁽⁷⁾	LMH 2001 ⁽⁷⁾
1.9%	3%
National Benchmark ⁽⁸⁾	
4.8%	

Data Footnotes:
 (1) Percentage reflects October through December data.
 (2) Percentage reflects January through June data.
 (3) State benchmarks from the most recent data analysis from the Ohio Pneumonia Project. Study period was October through December 1999.
 (4) Clinical Resource Management, Volume 1, Number 3, March 2000, published by National Health Information.
 (5) Statistics based on data for most recent quarter of each year, July-September.
 (6) National goal based on guidelines from the Ohio Pneumonia Project based on the consensus of an expert panel.
 (7) Yearly data based on January through August of that year.
 (8) Benchmark obtained from the MIDAS comparative database comprising 213 healthcare organizations.

Help during a harsh Winter

A PATIENT'S STORY

As a person at high risk for respiratory problems, Edward Hupp has fought pneumonia more than he cares to remember. "I don't know how many times I've had it, but I've had pneumonia a lot," the 71-year-old said.

The Frazeysburg resident also has emphysema and diabetes and had lung cancer a few years ago. "Pretty much anything you can have, I've had," he joked.

Edward was hospitalized for pneumonia five times alone this past winter – in December, January, February, March and April.

"I'm going to head to Florida here in a couple of weeks," he said. "I was going down last February, but I didn't make it."

Although Edward ended up in Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) frequently last winter, his length of stay decreased over time.

In December 2000, he was hospitalized for seven days. In January 2001, his stay was five days. It dropped to four days in February and two days each in March and April.

"They took as good of care as they could," Edward said of his treatment at LMH, noting that his medical history makes him more prone to develop pneumonia.

His physician, William Rawlinson, M.D., said Edward gets a flu shot annually and had received the pneumococcal vaccine in November 2000. Dr. Rawlinson noted that although Edward had a rough winter,

matters could have been worse. "People who are susceptible to the disease especially need to receive the pneumococcal vaccine," Dr. Rawlinson said.

"Without the vaccine, he could have had a sixth or seventh bout of pneumonia." Additionally, getting the flu can pose greater risk for those with such health problems as Edward has, since the virus also could develop into pneumonia.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), included among those at highest risk for pneumonia is anyone who has had one or more serious long-term health problems – such as heart disease, lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, diabetes or anemia.

"It's reasonable to say that Edward is a patient who is at high risk for pneumonia!" Dr. Rawlinson said.

The fact that Edward has had pneumonia despite receiving the pneumococcal vaccine is not alarming, Dr. Rawlinson said.

"A false impression in the community is that the pneumococcal vaccine protects against all types of pneumonia. That's not the case," he said. "There are many different strains of pneumonia out there. The pneumococcal strain is the most common one in the United States, but it is not the only one."

Edward is all too familiar with that fact. "I don't want to end up in the hospital with pneumonia again," he said, "but if I do, I know they'll take good care of me."



Edward Hupp is at high risk for pneumonia, and he has had it multiple times. But receiving his pneumonia and flu vaccines helps reduce his risk.

“ I don't want to end up in the hospital with pneumonia again, but if I do, I know they'll take good care of me. ”

Come To LMHS' 2001 FLU CLINIC

This flu season, fight back against the flu—**come to Licking Memorial Health Systems' 2001 Flu Clinic**, held at 88 McMillen Drive.

Cost is \$10, or present a Medicare, Medicaid, or CHPO card.

Until the vaccine is more plentiful, participation is limited to those who are at least 65 years old or meet at least one of the Centers for Disease Control high-risk criteria.

Licking Memorial Health Systems will notify the public when the clinic is open to the general population.

Time / Location:

Flu vaccinations are available at the LMHS 2001 Flu Clinic now through Thursday, December 13, at 88 McMillen Drive in Newark.

The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m. – noon

The clinic will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22.



Flu Shots Can Help at Any Time During the Season

with Dr. Eric Pacht

NOW IS THE BEST TIME FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD, THOSE WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS, PREGNANT WOMEN WHO WILL BE IN THEIR SECOND OR THIRD TRIMESTER DURING FLU SEASON, AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS TO RECEIVE THE FLU VACCINE, ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC). CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS INCLUDE HEART DISEASE, DIABETES, KIDNEY DISEASE, ASTHMA, CANCER AND HIV/AIDS.

NOVEMBER is the best time for the rest of the population – including people who have household contact with anyone in the first grouping, individuals ages 50 through 64, and anyone else who wants to prevent the flu, the centers said.

But, since flu season runs through February, getting the annual vaccine in December, January or February is still a good idea for anyone unable to receive it in October or November, the CDC advises.

"There are some healthy people who just want a flu shot to protect themselves from the illness," said Eric Pacht, M.D., a physician with Licking Memorial Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

And, according to the CDC, that's not a bad idea. Influenza – commonly called the flu – not only causes people to cough, run a fever and suffer body aches, but also puts them at risk for developing pneumonia.

But, not everyone should receive the vaccine, Dr. Pacht said. Anyone who has had a prior negative reaction to it, has a fever or cold, is

beginning chemotherapy within two weeks, is allergic to eggs or has had Guillian-Barre – a nervous condition, should not receive it.

Pneumonia Vaccine

Those individuals also may not be able to receive the vaccine for pneumonia, which is given about once every five years to those at high risk for developing the illness, Dr. Pacht said.

He recommends the pneumonia vaccine for individuals older than 65, those with a chronic illness, anyone without a functioning spleen, and nursing home residents.

Those who receive the vaccine after age 65 usually do not need another vaccination, but they should be careful to follow their physician's

recommendation.

Side effects for both the flu and pneumonia vaccines are minimal. Some who receive either or both of the shots will experience mild pain at the site and may run a slight fever, Dr. Pacht said. "Most people tolerate them quite well," he said.

Fast Fact

This year LMHS expects to administer 11,500 doses of the influenza (flu) vaccine, an increase from 10,700 last year.