



**Licking Memorial
Health Systems**
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Please take a few minutes to read this month's Report on **Pneumonia Care**.

You'll soon discover why Licking Memorial Hospital is measurably different ... for your health!

Visit us at www.LMHealth.org

A publication of the LMHS Public Relations Department at (740) 348-1572. Please contact the Public Relations Department to receive future mailings.



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Community Report Card

Licking Memorial Health Systems

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Pneumonia Care ...

a community report on patient care quality.



HEALTH TIPS

In addition to getting a flu shot each year, you can increase your protection against the illness by doing the following:

- Wash your hands often;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Eat a healthy diet;
- Get plenty of rest; and
- Exercise regularly.

Pneumonia Care

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 four hours of arrival at the hospital. This “door-to-antibiotic time” also includes diagnostic testing.

% of patients receiving antibiotic dose within 4 hours	LMH 2003 91%	LMH 2004 92%	LMH 1/05-6/05 86%	National ⁽¹⁾ 73%
Median door-to-antibiotic time	142 minutes	150 minutes	170 minutes	223 minutes

- 2** Best practice in pneumonia care says that 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.

% of patients receiving blood cultures prior to antibiotics	LMH 2003 91%	LMH 2004 84%	LMH 1/05-6/05 90%	National ⁽¹⁾ 83%
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- 3** Hospitalized patients with a condition that puts them at risk for developing complications from pneumonia and/or influenza (flu) should be screened for vaccines while in the hospital and receive a pneumonia and/or influenza vaccine if appropriate. Licking Memorial Health Professionals (LMHP) office patients who are at high risk for these illnesses also are screened and vaccinated as appropriate.

% of high-risk patients screened for pneumonia vaccine	LMH 2003 72%	LMH 2004 70%	LMH 1/05-6/05 76%	National ⁽¹⁾ 60%
% of pneumonia patients screened for the Influenza vaccine	65%	81%	74%	53%
% of physician office patients over 65 years receiving the pneumonia vaccine		LMH 2005 ⁽²⁾ 70.3%	National ⁽³⁾ 56.8%	LMHS Goal greater than 80%

- 4** It is important to determine whether a patient received a recommended antibiotic regimen while in the hospital. An antibiotic has the capacity to inhibit the growth of or destroy bacteria and other microorganisms. Antibiotics are used in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

% of non-ICU patients with appropriate antibiotic selected		LMH 2004 82%	LMH 1/05-6/05 79%	National ⁽¹⁾ 85%
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- 5** Pneumonia is a serious illness and represents a major cause of mortality in our country. A common quality indicator that is measured for all diseases is mortality rate.

% of mortalities for pneumonia patients	LMH 2003 3.2%	LMH 2004 0.6%	LMH 1/05-6/05 3.1%	National ⁽¹⁾ 4.5%
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- 6** Use of standard orders – in which physicians follow the best practice protocols for treating all patients with a particular diagnosis – indicates that patients are receiving consistent care.

% patients with standard orders used	LMH 2003 77%	LMH 2004 76%	LMH 1/05-6/05 85%	LMH Goal 100%
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Data Footnotes:

(1) MIDAS comparative database from first quarter 2005 data comparing over 325 organizations. (2) October 2004 Report Card incorrectly reported 77% as the 2004 value. Data was not accurately collected until 2005. (3) Centers for Disease Control 2004 National Health Interview Survey.

A Patient's Story



Carol Barrette recently suffered from a serious bout of pneumonia and was treated at Licking Memorial Hospital.

Carol Barrette

What started out as a little bit of a fever and a cough turned out to be a case of double pneumonia for Carol Barrette. "I kept telling my daughter that I thought I had an upper respiratory infection, and I just couldn't seem to get rid of it," said Carol. After some convincing, she ended up going to see her family care physician, Ramon Barcelona, M.D., for a checkup. Carol stated, "As soon as he saw me, he said that I was really sick and that I needed to be in the Hospital because I was so weak and dehydrated." Carol had pneumonia.

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs most often caused by infection with bacteria or a virus. Pneumonia can make it hard to breathe because the lungs have to work harder to get enough oxygen into the bloodstream. Symptoms of pneumonia caused by bacteria often begin suddenly and may follow an upper respiratory infection, such as influenza (flu) or a cold. Other symptoms, such as the symptoms that Carol had, include fever, a cough that often produces colored mucus from the lungs and rapid, often shallow breathing.

Dr. Barcelona admitted Carol to Licking Memorial Hospital. Soon, after a couple of days of fluids and care, Carol was discharged to go home. "It has been a couple of weeks since I have been home; I am still not feeling great, but I am doing better," said Carol. She continued, "I am glad that Dr. Barcelona sent me to the Hospital. I didn't think that I needed to go; but he was right, I needed to go to the Hospital."

Carol's diagnosis of double pneumonia came as a bit of a surprise to her. "About a month before I got sick, I got a pneumonia vaccine. But, I still managed to get sick,"

said Carol. "Getting a pneumonia vaccine is one of the best ways of preventing pneumonia. Carol received the pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine, which protects her from pneumococcal pneumonia; however she developed a different type of pneumonia in her lungs," said Dr. Barcelona.

Carol was very complimentary of the care that she received at Licking Memorial Hospital and from Dr. Barcelona. "He was excellent – I could not have asked for a better physician," stated Carol.



Carol Barrette pictured with her dogs.

Carol is well on her way to recovering from her bout with pneumonia. She is taking care of herself, taking her medication and staying hydrated. "I am doing the best that I can so that I don't get so sick again," said Carol.

Be sure to talk to your physician for more information about pneumonia.

"Dr. Barcelona was excellent -
I could not have asked for
a better physician."

Questions and Answers about the Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Flu Vaccinations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that annually more than 20,000 people in the United States die from pneumonia, and 10,000 to 40,000 die from the flu. The pneumococcal pneumonia and flu vaccinations save lives, but are they right for you? The following information should help you decide. If you're still unsure, ask your physician.

Q: Who should receive the pneumococcal vaccine?

A: It generally is recommended for ages 65 or older, as well as younger individuals who are at increased risk for pneumonia. Those at increased risk include anyone with a chronic illness – such as asthma, emphysema, COPD, diabetes, chronic heart disease or chronic renal failure; residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities; anyone without a functioning spleen; and those with a weakened immune system due to illnesses such as HIV infection, AIDS, chronic renal failure, organ transplantation, Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma or multiple myeloma.

Q: Who should receive the flu vaccine?

A: The flu vaccine is especially recommended for people categorized by the CDC as being at high risk for developing complications from the flu. They include: anyone age 65 or older; people ages 2 or older with one or more chronic health conditions – including heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, cancer and HIV/AIDS; pregnant women who will be in their second or third trimester during flu season; health care workers; children ages 6 months to 23 months; and children 6 months to 18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy. Children younger than 6 months old can also get very sick from the flu. Since they are too young to be vaccinated from the flu, the best way to protect them is to make sure their family members and caregivers are vaccinated.

Q: Can you get both vaccines?

A: Yes. If you are in an age and/or high-risk group for both flu and pneumonia, you should keep up on vaccinations for both. Be sure to get vaccinated against the flu annually. The pneumococcal vaccine is recommended once every five to 10 years, depending on the individual patient. Consult your physician for what is best for you.

Q: Will either vaccine make me sick?

A: No. Because these vaccines are inactivated, they cannot cause an infection. However, you may not be able to receive the flu vaccine if you are allergic to eggs, are very ill with a high fever, or have had a severe reaction to the flu vaccine in the past.

Q: What else can I do to fight the flu and pneumonia?

A: Follow healthy habits – including getting adequate rest, eating a healthy diet, frequently washing your hands and getting regular exercise – to lessen your chance of developing a respiratory illness. Doing so also can help your body more easily fight off illness if it should occur.



Protect yourself this cold and flu season.