It’s time to select your health benefits for 2018. Open enrollment is “passive,” so if you’re happy with your current benefit elections and coverage, your benefits will automatically carry over to 2018 — unless you want to:

- Make an annual election for contributions to a Flexible Spending Account or Health Savings Account
- Make changes to your benefit elections
- Add or remove a dependent

You must log on and make those elections or any changes by Friday, November 17. Otherwise, your benefits will remain the same for 2018.

Need help selecting benefits? Use the interactive “Ask Emma” tool available through the MaineHealth Benefits Portal to help you make your benefit enrollment decisions.

For more details about Open Enrollment, visit www.mainehealth.org/benefits.

MMC nurses celebrate their third Magnet Designation at the annual ANCC Magnet Conference in Houston, TX. Only 2 percent of hospitals nationwide receive Magnet Recognition for nursing excellence.

Front Row: Margaret (Peggy) McRae, Hidi St. Peter, Joanne Chapman, Marguerite (Peggy) Anderson, Lynn White.

Back Row: Lorraine McElwain, Melanie Lord, Marylyn Flanders, Leslie Knight, Heidi Gwinn, Deborah Bachand, Nancy Hoffman, Nicole Manchester, Carole Parisien.

Maine Medical Center has been recognized by the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP) for having achieved meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care.

The NSQIP recognition acknowledges that MMC achieved composite positive outcomes in 2016 related to patient management in eight clinical areas:

- Mortality
- Unplanned intubation
- Ventilator > 48 hours
- Renal failure
- Cardiac incidents (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction)
- Respiratory (pneumonia)
- SSI (surgical site infections—superficial and deep incisional and organ-space SSIs)
- Urinary tract infection

‘Surgical Outcomes’ Continued on Back
Maine Medical Partners has received the HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award for outstanding efforts to promote HPV vaccine in pediatric practices. Maine Medical Partners – Pediatrics has been recognized as number one in the region that includes all of New England and the state of New York for HPV immunization rates. Maine Medical Partners – Portland Pediatrics also was ranked number one in Maine.

“The fact that there is now a vaccine that can reduce the risk of multiple types of cancer is mind-blowing,” said Jennifer Dubail, M.D., a pediatrician with Maine Medical Partners – Portland Pediatrics. “I recommend the HPV vaccine for all of my patients starting at 11 years old because it has the power to protect both them and their future partners against the devastating effects of cancers and other HPV-related diseases.”

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common sexually transmitted infection. The CDC reports one in four people are infected with it. Some types of HPV can cause cancer, and sometimes the symptoms don’t develop for years after sex. That is why the CDC recommends 11- and 12-year-olds get two doses of HPV vaccine. Their bodies generate a better immune response than those of older teens, and the vaccine series is more effective when it is completed before teens and young adults become sexually active.

Led by the Association of American Cancer Institutes, the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award recognizes clinicians, clinics, practices, groups and health systems that are effectively working to protect their adolescent patients against HPV cancers by achieving high HPV vaccination rates. The award program honored one Champion from each of the 10 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regions.

‘Surgical Outcomes’ From Front

“National recognition for top surgical care is the result of a lot of hard work, attention to detail, drive for excellence and teamwork,” said Brad Cushing, M.D., FACS, MMC Chief of Surgery. “We are very proud of the many nurses, surgical techs, anesthesia, medical and surgical providers as well as the many other staff who support the surgical patients through their operative journey to these good outcomes.”

MMC is one of 66 hospitals to gain this recognition in 2016. ACS NSQIP is the only nationally validated quality improvement program that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients and is currently used in nearly 800 adult and pediatric hospitals.