

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Maine's Only 24-Hour Pharmacy Opens at MMC

New Services Enhance Patient Care and Offer Employee Benefits

Maine Medical Center's new Pharmacy is now open for business. The community pharmacy, located on the ground floor of the East Tower on the Bramhall Campus, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the convenience of our patients and employees. The Pharmacy offers consulting, over-the-counter medicines, and some compounded prescriptions.

Opening Maine's only 24-hour Pharmacy is a major step to improving patient care through better medication management. Historically, patients waited to fill their prescriptions until after they left the hospital. This resulted in many patients not filling their prescription or waiting too long to have it filled. It also required an extra stop on the way home, which can be stressful for someone with an illness. Patients of the ED will benefit from access to this expanded service so they can leave the hospital with their first prescription filled, regardless of the time of day.

The Pharmacy will eventually offer patients a bedside



At an open house for MMC employees, Pharmacy staff discussed the new services, gave tours of the new space and private consultation room, and explained how employees could easily transfer their prescriptions.

consult with a pharmacist to learn about proper medication usage, side effects, and usage guidelines, resulting in an easier transition between hospital and home.

"We're excited to offer these important new services to our patients," says Brian Marden, Pharmacy Senior Director. "24-hour access coupled with counseling means our patients will leave with the proper medication and better un-

derstanding of their prescriptions."

Nationally, 75 percent of patients sometimes fail to take their medications as directed, according to the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations. As a result, 33-69 percent of medication-related hospitalizations are linked to drug non-adherence. Additionally, 33 percent of prescriptions are never filled. This on-site pharmacy with 24/7

access to pharmacists and pharmacy techs will help educate patients about their own health care.

Bill Hewitt, RPh, is manager of the new Pharmacy. Hewitt has managed and owned pharmacies for 25 years, including the former Rosemont Pharmacy in Portland. Most recently, he worked with the Maine Board of Pharmacy as a

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MMC BioBank Receives Accreditation From College Of American Pathologists

The MMC BioBank has received accreditation from the College of American Pathologists (CAP) based on results of a recent on-site inspection. The MMC BioBank is one of only 30 biorepositories nationwide to receive CAP accreditation. A biorepository is a facility that collects, processes, stores, and distributes biospecimens such as tissue, urine, and blood to support scientific research.

The College of American Pathologists (CAP), has been considered the gold standard in laboratory accreditation for over 50 years.

“Biorepositories serve as vital resources for clinical and translational research leading to new therapies and improved patient outcomes,” says Anne C. Breggia, Ph.D., BioBank Director. “Through the CAP ac-

creditation, the MMC BioBank demonstrates to the scientific community that our protocols follow the highest standards. This distinction shows the BioBank’s dedication and commitment to the research and patient-care missions of MMC.”

The MMC BioBank was created 12 years ago by Michael Jones, M.D., Chief of Pathology at MMC, whose

vision was to create a source of samples that could be used by MMC clinicians and scientists for research. The BioBank has more than 150,000 tissue samples collected primarily from cancer and inflammatory disease surgeries and obtained with patient informed consent. Learn more about the MMC BioBank at mmcri.org.

“Maine’s Only 24-Hour Pharmacy” from front

pharmacy inspector.

The new pharmacy services benefit employees, too. MMC staff and their family members covered under the MaineHealth insurance plan will receive discounts at the pharmacy. Employees can transfer their prescriptions using a request form available at the Pharmacy or on the MMC Intranet. Future services for staff may in-

clude payroll deduction and delivery for employees at other MMC sites.

“The Pharmacy provides a number of benefits for both patients and employees,” says Jeff Sanders, MMC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “These new services will enhance education about medications and provide a convenient service for patients and employees alike.”



The natural wood used in the Pharmacy design, seen here, was culled from the Penobscot River. Old logs that had settled at the bottom of the river, back when the waterway was used for shipping, have been “reclaimed” and used in construction.

Blood Drive at Bramhall Monday, February 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dana Center

All presenting donors receive a \$5 Dunkin’ Donuts gift card.
To make an appointment, call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit redcrossblood.org.



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