

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

## Tobacco-Free Team Meets 2014 AIP Goals

One of MMC's two FY14 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Population Health Goals is to "develop and implement a standardized tobacco intervention across all care practice sites to consistently identify tobacco using patients, assess their interest in quitting tobacco, and provide those interested with the necessary resources."

Halfway through the year, this work is already exceeding expectations.

A collaborative effort between MMC, MMP, the Center for Tobacco Independence, Maine Tobacco

Helpline, and HomeHealth Visiting Nurses has resulted in system-wide tobacco-use reporting capabilities and patient referral mechanisms for caregivers. Epic optimization has been completed to support new workflows. This will include a best practice alert for clinical staff to refer tobacco-using patients to treatment resources during the intake process, a tobacco treatment smart set for providers and informational handouts for patients.

Now, when a tobacco user receives care at any MMC location, he or she will receive tobacco treatment

information and resources as part of their health care plan. Patients admitted to the inpatient units will be referred to the MMC "Tobacco Treatment Team," made up of RNs and NPs who specialize in tobacco treatment. The team:

- Provides individualized, bedside counseling and tobacco treatment medications
- Arranges for treatment after discharge
- Places a brief intervention follow up call 14 - 30 days after discharge

In the outpatient offices,

clinical staff members provide a brief intervention and offer a referral directly to the Maine Tobacco Helpline.

"We now have the foundation in place to offer assistance to tobacco-using patients at every clinical touchpoint," says Wendy Osgood, Vice President, Adult Medicine Service Line.

Steven Digiovanni, M.D., Director, MMP Outpatient Clinics, adds, "Helping a patient quit using tobacco will change their health for

*Continued on back*



## Another Successful "Match Day"

Samuel Volin, of Falmouth, gets a high-five after receiving good news on "Match Day," Friday, March 21.

Match Day is when medical students find out where they'll be doing residency. For the second year in a row, every MaineTrack student was matched with a residency of their choice.

The soon-to-be Dr. Volin will specialize in diagnostic radiology in Charleston, S.C.

## MaineHealth's 'From the First Tooth' Receives Grant to Improve Children's Oral Health

MaineHealth recently received a grant from the The Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF) to further engage primary care providers in preventing tooth decay, the most common health problem among Maine children. From the First Tooth, one of MaineHealth's pediatric health initiatives, received \$570,024 from SHDF, which will be used to increase the number of young children in Maine who receive fluoride varnish and oral evaluations in medical settings as well as referrals to dentists.

"The goal of our work is to ensure that children receive fluoride to strengthen their teeth in the first few years of life, when it is most effective, and to link children

to dentists where they can receive comprehensive dental care throughout childhood," said Kneka Smith, director of From the First Tooth.

The grant will allow From the First Tooth to:

- Train pediatric medical providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) in appropriate assessment of oral conditions in their young pediatric patients and to apply fluoride varnish to teeth – a fast and simple in-office procedure integrated into well-child visits.
- Work to increase parental awareness

about the benefits of fluoride varnish and its availability in Maine.

- Evaluate the impact that the initiative is having on children across the state.

Since 2011, the percentage of MaineCare children receiving four fluoride applications by four years of age has doubled from 7 percent to more than 14 percent, but there is much work to be done.

Smith adds, "Children who receive four fluoride varnishes by age four years are less likely to have tooth decay as they age, and now both physicians and dentists are working to make that a reality for children in Maine."

*"Tobacco-Free"*  
*From front*

the better from that moment on."

Education and trainings for all MMC units, MMP practices, Home Health Visiting Nurses, and other interested practice sites are ongoing, with a goal of reaching

more than half of all clinical staff this year.

Contact your supervisor if you would like training and have not received it yet.

### Did You Know?

Spiritual Care staff and residents now wear name tags that read "Spiritual Care," rather than "Chaplain." Kitty Garlid, Director of Spiritual Care, says, "This better reflects the name, function, and inclusivity of our department. Many people now identify as 'spiritual but not religious,' yet have the same fundamental need for spiritual and emotional support as those who are affiliated with a religion."

COMING  
UP AT  
MMC

**Stressed? Find Out How Meditation Can Help**  
**Thursday, March 27**  
**Noon - 1 p.m.**  
**East Tower Classroom 2**

**Kohl's Vax Kids**  
**Saturday, March 29**  
**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Children's Museum of Maine**

**9th Annual Geriatrics Day**  
**Wednesday, April 2**  
**7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
**Dana Center**

**Orthopedics Symposium**  
**"Partnering With You: MMC Joint Replacement Program, Occupational/Physical Therapy Themes That Matter"**  
**Monday, April 7**  
**8 a.m. - Noon**  
**Dana Center**  
**[mmc.org/jrcevents](http://mmc.org/jrcevents)**

*For details on all upcoming event, check out the Calendar on the MMC Intranet.*



Maine Medical Center  
MaineHealth

WHAT'S HAPPENING IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Comments, questions, and story ideas:  
Chelsea Miller, Communications Specialist  
(207)662-4096 [millec7@mmc.org](mailto:millec7@mmc.org)