

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
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PCC computer aids public and profession

"Like going from a hang glider to the Concorde," is how Maine Poison Control Center Supervisor Bruce Campbell, R.Ph., describes the Center's new computerized information system. The system provides rapid access to a vast data base, which will dramatically improve the Center's response to the 18,000 calls it receives each year.

Consumers using the Poison Control Center's toll-free statewide number will benefit from the upgraded system, as will physicians and other health care professionals needing detailed information on drug interactions and poison management.

The Computerized Clinical Information System is a combination of several data bases on different topics, operated in a personal computer. It includes a computerized version of the *Poisindex*, a microfiche system that the Center has used for 12 years. *Poisindex* contains ingredient information on over 300,000 commercial, industrial, pharmaceutical, and botanical substances, along with detailed treatment protocols for managing overdoses and poisonings.

"As the amount of information in the *Poisindex* has grown over the years," Campbell says, "the microfiche format has become increasingly unwieldy. The computerized version replaces 375 microfiche cards that we had to load manually for each new call, and eliminates having to switch back and forth between identification and treatment cards."

The computerized version also has additional capabilities. It will graphically display patient condition in overdoses of acetaminophen, ibuprofen, salicylates, and alcohol, and provides pediatric dosing information for the Advanced Life Support drugs.

Drugdex is the second major data base, with evaluations and consults on



LEAD TECHNICIAN LEE CHICK, EMT, at the console of the Maine Poison Control Center's new information system. The heart of the system is the compact disc drive on the shelf above the computer screen. The disc memory can hold up to 550 megabytes of information. (A/V Photo)

over 3,700 prescription, over-the-counter, investigational, and foreign drugs. It provides finger-tip access to information on dosing, both normal and in special circumstances, pharmacokinetic information (onset and duration, concentration levels, metabolism and excretion, half-life, etc.), cautions and adverse reactions, interactions, and clinical applications.

"This may be the most significant part of the system in terms of expanded capabilities," Campbell says, "because it's like having computer access all the traditional reference books plus any significant articles or studies that have been performed since their publication."

As an example, Campbell cites a recent call from a physician. His patient

Training courses offered to supervisors

The Training and Development Section of MMC's Personnel Department announces the Supervisory and Management Development Program for Spring 1987. The courses listed below are open to all supervisors and managers at MMC. Advance registration is required, and additional information is available from Training and Development x2824.

Module I: Fundamentals of Supervision

Designed to make supervisors more aware of the effects of their actions and attitudes on their employees. Wednesday

COMPUTER, from page one

was taking a prescription drug for blood pressure control. He had prescribed an additional medication for another condition, and the patient was experiencing elevated blood pressure. Was there a connection?

Using a unique portion of Drugdex that allows the user to ask for possible complications of combining any two drugs, Campbell found that although the two medications did not directly interact, the second medication was the probable cause of the loss of blood pressure control. "That research would have taken several hours in the past," he says. "It only took five minutes on the computer."

Similarly, the Center received a call from a woman who had mistakenly taken her husband's prescription medication instead of her own. She called to see if she had poisoned herself. The on-duty technician was able to assure her that the single incorrect dose wouldn't harm her, and because of the completeness of the information was also able to tell her she should wait before taking her own medication because of a potential interaction.

MMC's Clinical Pharmacist Gil Fraser, Pharm.D., is also making use of the pharmacokinetic information in Drugdex. His responsibility is providing consultation on the prescribing, dosing, and administration of pharmaceuticals, so Drugdex is proving to be an invaluable aid.

Emergindex contains pertinent medical data for the practice of acute care medicine, including clinical presentation, laboratory and radiologic findings, differential diagnosis, treatment, and disposition. It is indexed by a 40,000 word medical thesaurus.

Designed as both a practical tool and an educational aid, *Emergindex* can display expected laboratory values for a given condition, provide drug dosing information for specific situations, and even display combinations of normal and abnormal heart rhythms for comparative review.

Identidex is a 23,000-entry tablet and capsule identification system that uses manufacturer imprint codes, color, and physical descriptions. It includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, generic drugs, and look-alike and rip-off drugs.

The information system is built around a data base that is constantly being broadened and updated. The company sends quarterly updates incorporating new

knowledge, and it is integrated with the existing data base. New areas of information are also being developed, including the effect of drugs in breast milk and the teratogenic effects of drugs.

The Center obtained the system through a special purchase using a combination of state and Maine Medical Center funds. Quartered in MMC's Emergency Department, the Center is a statewide resource supported primarily by Maine Medical Center, the Maine Department of Human Services, and the United Way.

Staff Nurse Level III application deadline

Applications for Phase II of the implementation of Staff Nurse Level III are due in the Nurse Recruitment office by 4 PM January 30. One copy of the entire application packet must also be submitted. The Review Committee will forward approved applications to the appropriate Head Nurses by February 21, 1987. The Head Nurses will interview candidates and make final decisions for Level III appointments by March 7.

Please Note

The Volunteer Office needs cribbage boards, checker boards, and checkers. Any donations would be appreciated.

The Pediatric Playroom needs new movies for its videotape library. If you could donate any programming for either children or adolescents, in VHS format, please call Betty Lewis at 871-2477.

Help sought for survey questions

MMC has the opportunity to develop 20 questions for the MMC supplement portion of the employee attitude survey. Vice President for Employee Relations Ronald Baril is seeking ideas from all regarding the nature of those questions. If you have an idea for a question, please send it to the Personnel Office (anonymously if you wish) by January 23. All suggestions will be given consideration as the 20 questions are developed.

Training programs are open to all

The Training and Development Section of MMC's Personnel Department announces the Open Enrollment Program schedule for Spring 1987. The courses listed below are open to all employees. Advance registration is required, and additional information is available from Training and Development at x2824.

Advanced Medical Terminology

Covers terminology relating to the major body systems and to cancer medicine. Knowledge of basic terminology is essential as a prerequisite for this course. Mondays and Thursdays, January 26-April 16, 3-5 PM.

Time Management

How to set priorities, recognize habits that waste time unnecessarily, and develop habits that allow the best possible use of work and leisure time. Tuesdays, February 10 and February 24, 2-4 PM.

Coping with Anger

Finding ways to express and work with anger constructively. Participants explore the origins of anger, draw on personal experiences, and develop ideas for effective approaches to dealing with anger. Wednesdays, February 11 and February 18, 8 AM-12 Noon.

Effective Writing

Techniques for clarifying thoughts, getting ideas flowing, organizing materials, and writing under pressure. Tuesday, March 3-March 31, 9:30-11:30 AM.

Introduction to Communication and Problem-Solving

Covering the mechanics of the communication process, common obstacles to understanding, and skills to use in a variety of difficult situations. Fridays, April 3-May 1, 10 AM-12 Noon.

Social Styles

Develops self-awareness and skill in observing and describing others' behavior. Videotape is used to develop awareness of characteristic behavior as it's seen from the outside. Wednesdays, May 6-June 3, 1-4 PM.

New Employees

NURSING: Mary E. Austin, Debra M. LaFrance, Susan A. O'Malley

HOUSEKEEPING: Carol L. Carey, Courtney Doherty, Richard Gilbert Jr.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: Julie A. Nisbet



DONNA MORONG, RN, MS, was named Head Nurse on R5 last month. A graduate of the University of Southern Maine School of Nursing, she also holds a Master's degree in Adult Education from USM. She came to MMC from the Osteopathic Hospital of Maine, where she was a nursing supervisor. (A/V Photo)

Courses offer end to smoking and stress

Now that the holidays are over and a new year has begun, *HealthStyles* offers you a chance to get serious about smoking and stress.

"I Quit Smoking" will meet once a week, with a follow-up session two weeks after the end of the course. The course will focus on understanding why of smoking, uncovering the willpower to quit, coping with urges and learning to relax, overcoming barriers to non-smoking, weight management, managing stress with smoking, and kicking the habit forever. It is offered on four consecutive Thursdays, beginning January 22, 4:30-6:00 PM.

"Taking it in Stride" meets once a week for four weeks, covering the nature of stress and its recognition, time organization, energy wasters, communications skills, assertiveness training, humor, self-renewal, and planning for the future. Relaxation skills will be taught in each class. The course is offered 4:30-6:00 PM on four consecutive Tuesdays, beginning January 20.

Instructing both courses will be Helen Quigley of Helen Quigley Associates, author of the *L.L. Bean Guide to Fitness* and *The Heart Club Cookbook*.

Recognitions given to the Robinsons

Two members of MMC's Psychiatry Department staff, who also happen to be husband and wife, recently received significant recognition for their work.

Edward H. Robinson, M.D., has passed the certification examination of the American Medical Society on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies (AMSAODD), and is now identified by that society as knowledgeable and expert in chemical dependence. The society is the major international organization for physicians working in substance abuse.

Jacqueline L. Robinson, RN, has been included in the Twenty-first Edition of *Who's Who in the East*. Inclusion in *Who's Who* is "limited to those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their own fields of endeavor and who have, thereby, contributed significantly to the betterment of contemporary society."

Morphology

The light at the end of the tunnel could turn out to be the headlight of an oncoming train.

SMONS meeting will focus on nutrition

The Southern Maine Oncology Nurses' Society will hold its monthly meeting in Classroom 3 on January 22, 5-6:30 PM. The business meeting will be followed by an educational program entitled "Nutritional Aspects of Cancer Care." Sheila Millington, RD, will be the featured speaker.

COURSES, from page one — days, March 4-April 8, 9 AM-12 Noon.

Module II: Performance Management

Picks up for Module I, dealing with the definition, measurement, and management of job performance and productivity. Recommended for those with at least one year in their present position who have taken Module I or a comparable course. Tuesdays, March 31-April 28, 9 AM-12 Noon.

Module III: Improving Performance

Introduces a model that helps supervisors define performance problems, analyze causes, communicate with employees, and together develop a workable, lasting solution. Recommended for those with at least one year experience in their present positions who have taken Module I and II or comparable training. Wednesdays, May 6-June 10, 9 AM-12 Noon.

Performance Appraisal Workshop

Assessing and refining standards for employee's job performance and practicing documentation and discussion of the actual performance of the employee in relation to the standards established. Thursdays, March 19-May 7, 2-4 PM.

Conflict Management

Insight into conflict management style and new approaches of intervention. Material includes direct, positive confrontation, diagnosis of the roots of conflict, collaborative decision-making, creative problem solving, and mediation techniques. Wednesdays, April 1-April 29, 9:30 AM - 12 Noon.

Team Management

Provides knowledge and skills to help lead a team effectively, and offers guidelines for basic problem-solving and team interaction. Tuesdays, May 5-June 9, 9 AM-12 Noon.

Innovative Thinking and Problem Solving

Creative thinking techniques to better see, analyze, and solve problems. Thursdays, June 4-June 18, 9 AM-12 Noon.

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Rte. 113, Steep Falls. 4 BR country home with appliances, W/D hookup, circulating hot water heating system. Well insulated. \$500/mo. plus utils. and 1 mo. sec. dep. Call 675-3378.

FOR RENT: Saddleback Mt. ski week Feb. 13-22. Private home on lake. 4 BR; sleeps 15. Will rent weekends. Guest house on premises also avail. Call 799-1780.

FOR RENT: So. Freeport Jan.-June (perhaps longer). Lovely 1 BR furnished home on water. Woodstove and wood included. \$525/mo. Call John Gleason at 775-2361 days or 865-4388 eves.

FOR RENT: Biddeford. Attractive 5 room plus bath apt. Heat, utils., appliances, and parking included. No pets. \$400/mo. plus sec. dep. and lease. Call 774-6621.

FOR RENT: 146 Neal St. Bright 1 BR apt. with hardwood floors. \$425/mo. with parking, heat and hot water included. Call Carl at 871-0586.

FOR RENT: Monument St. Large 2 BR apt. in 2 family home. Hardwood floors; quiet neighborhood; courtyard. \$465/mo. plus utils. and sec. dep. Call 871-0025 or 773-2247 eves. and weekends.

FOR RENT: Room. \$150/mo. with utils. included. Use of W/D; light KT use. Sec. dep. and refs. Call 797-9126.

FOR RENT: West End. 2 BR and 1 BR apt. Newly remodeled with parking. \$500 and \$325/mo. plus utils. Call 625-4451.

FOR RENT: Bradley St. on busline, near shopping center. Sunny, attractive, 2 BR apt. with W/W carpet, dishwasher, disposal, W/D hookup, parking. \$535/mo. Call 773-4130 after 6 PM.

FOR RENT: North Conway condo. 3 BR, 2½ bath, fireplace. Sleeps 10. Avail. immediately. Rentals by week, month, or season. Call 797-5151.

FOR RENT: North Deering. 2 BR, KT/LR combination. W/W carpet, large yard, off-street parking. Avail. immediately. \$450/mo. plus utils. Call 797-7740.

FOR SALE: 8 x 24 ft. mobile office trailer in excellent condition. Baseboard heat, air conditioner, carpet, drapes, built-in desk, shelves, files, and spare tire. \$3,795. Call 727-3910.

ROOMMATE WANTED: 1 person to share 3 BR apt. with 2 others. So. Portland location. \$200/mo. plus ½ heat and hot water. Rent includes cable, electric, and phone. Avail. immediately. Call 799-3656.

ROOMMATE WANTED: To share house in Gorham (15-20 min. commute to MMC). \$250/mo. includes all. W/D avail. Call Cindy at 839-2854 in AM.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Reasonably neat and quiet female nonsmoker looking for same to share apt. in quiet intown neighborhood. Have 2 cats. \$225/mo. includes utils. Call 871-0025 or 773-2247 eves. and weekends.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female nonsmoker to share expenses with 3 professional women in 4 BR apt. Good neighborhood near MMC/USM; on bus route. \$173.75/mo. plus elec. Call 761-4535.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Professional person to share sunny 2 BR apt. in Woodford area. \$225/mo. plus utils. Call 773-5908 after 8 PM.

ROOMMATE WANTED: To share 2 BR apt. in quiet building in Back Cove area off Ocean Ave. On busline. \$275/mo. plus 1 mo. sec. dep.; utils. included. Call Margaret at 773-6411 x235 days.

FOR SALE: 1985½ SS Monte Carlo. Silver gray, 305 engine, low mileage, showroom condition. \$9,000 or best offer. Call 926-4895.

FOR SALE: 1985½ Mercury Lynx with 14,000 miles, stereo cassette. Excellent condition. Call 846-9764.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING is published every Wednesday at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine for members of the hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions and suggestions may be addressed to Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, ME 04102. Telephone: (207) 871-2196.

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FOR SALE: 1977 Toyota Corolla with 75K miles. Well cared for. \$975. Call 774-8682 and leave message.

FOR SALE: Two 15" Mag tires with Cragar SS rims. \$50 each or best offer. Call 892-4771 after 5 PM.

FOR SALE: Men's large one piece Yamaha snowmobile suit; like new. Original cost \$100; will sell for \$60. Call 657-3915.

FOR SALE: Avocado appliances; all in good working condition. Kenmore stove, \$225; Frigidare refrig., \$200; G.E. dishwasher, \$175 or \$500 for all three. Offers will be considered. Call 767-3612 after 4 PM; leave message.

FOR SALE: 100% red, size 10 cashmere coat; never worn; original price \$450; will sell for \$175. Size 8-10, tan, soft suede coat with detachable real fur collar, \$135. Autumn-haze mink stole, \$225. Call 773-5481 9 AM-9 PM.

WANTED: Babysitter in Rosemont area home. Professional couple with delightful 7 mo. old and 2 yr. old children looking for part-time day care in our home. Call 775-2613.

FREE: Gentle 7 mo. old golden/orange male Coon cat. Call 773-6217 days.

FREE: To good home. AKC registered Samoyed. Call x4484.

DAY CARE: Experienced day care provider will care for your infants or toddlers in her Westbrook home. Call 797-8885.

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