

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

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MMC is ready and able to deal with DRGs

"The new federal regulations on payment to hospitals for Medicare patients are based on averages," says MMC Executive Vice President and Treasurer Don McDowell. "In a system based on averages," he notes, "a large hospital with a lot of Medicare cases has an advantage, because the laws of averages work better with large numbers. We should do well — or at least not do poorly — under the new system."

McDowell says hospital administrators and others across the country are busy either voicing or allaying fears that the new Medicare prospective pricing system will have devastating effects on the quality of care offered, on the financial viability and ultimately the survival of hospitals, and on the job security of hospital workers.

The furor is all about a prospective pricing system based on Diagnosis Related Groups [DRGs], which took effect October 1. Basically, under the DRG system, the hospital will be paid at a fixed, non-negotiable, predetermined rate for each Medicare patient it discharges. Each case will be classified in one of 467 DRGs, determined by combining admitting diagnosis, surgical procedures, complications, co-existing conditions, and other factors. The groupings are of medically similar conditions, and of conditions requiring approximately equal consumption of hospital resources.

While not a cause for panic, the DRG system will have more impact — and more universal impact — than any change in health care financing since the inception of Medicare in 1965. Everyone is deeply involved in the change to DRGs: patients, physicians, nurses, medical records technicians, accountants, administrators — all of us to one degree or another.

Following are the highlights of a very
DRGs, page 3



THEY RAN A MILE (and more) to help kick off the 1983 United Way Campaign in Greater Portland. MMC's runners, wearing bright red United Way t-shirts with MAINE MEDICAL CENTER emblazoned on the back, were among some 2,000 who took part in the 5th annual United Run. They did us proud, from their starting point in Deering Oaks, along a winding, uphill (and ultimately rainy) route to Monument Square where ceremonies signalled the official start of the campaign. Pictured (left to right): George Higgins, M.D., Emergency; Lynn Jones, Laboratory Medicine; Resa Peterson, RN, Emergency; Ann McDonough, RN, Family Practice; Mike Kotch, Rehabilitation Medicine; Sharon Munn, Laboratory Medicine; Elaine Arsenault, Medical Records; Reynold Welch, Administration; and Phil Terrano, Jr., Housekeeping. (A/V Photo)

MMC welcomes new Corporators, Trustees

Maine Medical Center's Board of Corporators elected three new members to the hospital's Board of Trustees and 15 new Corporators at its annual meeting last week.

Trustees elected to serve four-year terms were: John F. Gibbons, M.D., of Cape Elizabeth, Chief of the MMC Department of Radiology; Lloyd H. Holmes of Portland, President of Holmes Distributors; and John W. L. White, South

Freeport, Chairman of the Board of Consumers Water Company.

Trustees re-elected to four-year terms were Mrs. Alexander R. Fowler of Cumberland Foreside, and Frederick W. Pape, Jr., of Falmouth Foreside.

Newly elected Corporators are: Francis Amoroso, Chief of Police of the City of Portland; Lynn K. Goldfarb, Vice President of Sun Savings and Loan Association; B. Terence Goodwin, Senior Vice President of Casco Northern

CORPORATORS, page 2

CORPORATORS, from page one Bank; Wayne C. McGarvey, Senior Vice President of the Maine National Bank; Harold Woodsum, Esquire, attorney with Drummond, Woodsum, Plimpton & MacMahon; all reside in Portland.

Francis J. Guthrie, Jr., Vice President of Marketing for Unionmutual; George J. Scully, President and Chief Executive Officer of People's Savings Bank; William H. Webster, President of Morse, Payson & Noyes Financial Company; all of Cape Elizabeth.

Judith M. Coburn, Esquire, a partner with the firm of Verrill and Dana; and Mrs. Anita Stickney, Chairman of the Board of Deering Ice Cream; both of Yarmouth.

Also Mrs. Albert D. Conley of Freeport, a retired optometrist and a Corporator of the New England College of Optometry; Clement A. Hiebert, M.D., of Windham, President of the MMC Medical Staff; Mrs. Elizabeth B. Noyce of Bremen, President of the Board of Trustees of Miles Memorial Hospital in Damariscotta; Mrs. John B. Robinson of Oxford, Director and Corporation Clerk of the Robinson Manufacturing Company; and Bruce Saunders of South Casco, Treasurer of Saunders Brothers.

The Corporators re-elected Robert B. Williamson, Jr., of Cape Elizabeth, Secretary to the Corporation and the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Emerson H. Drake of Falmouth Foreside, whose term has expired after 18 years on the Board of Trustees, and L. Robert Porteous, Jr., of Cumberland Foreside, whose term has expired after 15 years on the Board were elected Honorary Trustees. Laban W. Leiter, M.D., of Portland, whose four-year term on the Board has expired, is retiring from the Board of Trustees.

More than 150 Corporators attended the annual meeting, held in Classrooms 3 & 4. The Board of Corporators is the corporate body that serves as the cornerstone of MMC's structure as a non-



TWO NEW MMC TRUSTEES (from left) John W. L. White and Lloyd H. Holmes chat with our 1983 Annual Fund Chairman Widgery Thomas, Jr.

profit institution. The Board's primary legal role is the election from its membership of a Board of Trustees, which is the ultimate governing authority of the hospital. Corporators — 260 in number — have the opportunity to become more deeply involved in hospital activities, and they serve on various committees including those dealing with fundraising, planning and program review. Corporators, representing a cross-section of MMC's service area, represent the hospital in the community, and they bring to the hospital the interests of the communities they represent.

Following the meeting of the Corporators, the hospital's Board of Trustees met also in annual session and re-elected the following officers for the year ending October 1984: James L. Moody, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Herbert S. Holmes, Jr., Vice Chairperson; George M. Lord, Vice Chairperson; Donald L. McDowell, Treasurer; and Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., President.

Nursing Continuing Education Programs

- *Principles of Chemotherapy*, Karen Kane, RN, and Steve D'Amato, R.Ph.

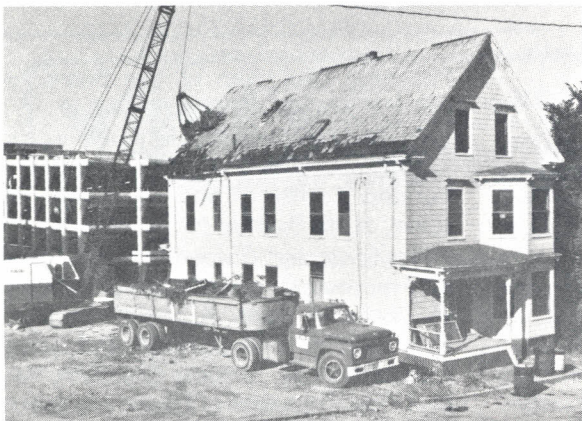
Wednesday, October 19, 1983
4:00-5:00 PM Classroom R1

- *Aberration vs. Ectopy*, Virginia Erickson, RN

Thursday, October 20, 1983
7:30-8:30 AM, 2:00-3:00 PM
CICU Conference Room

New Employees

DATA ENTRY: Kathryn A. Brown
CANCER REGISTRY: Sandra J. Conroy
CSD: James Flint
HOUSEKEEPING: Patricia M. Gozelski
BLOOD BANK: Linda A. Mondor
FOOD SERVICE: Karen M. Shaw



Friends of MMC to hold Annual Meeting

"Genetic Disease" will be the program topic when the Friends of Maine Medical Center gather for their Fall meeting October 21. The meeting will be in Classrooms 3&4 at 9:30 AM. The general public and interested MMC employees are invited to join the Friends to learn more about genetic disease.

Thomas G. Brewster, M.D., Director of Clinical Genetics at the Foundation for Blood Research in Scarborough, and Attending Pediatrician at Maine Medical Center, will discuss the genetic basis of disease. To date, over 3,000 genetic diseases have been identified, with coronary artery disease being a major genetic killer. He will discuss carriers and genetic transmission, and progress in treatment and prevention. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

An auxiliary group established in 1959, the Friends assume responsibility for several Maine Medical Center programs, including "Preview for Parents," a program held for approximately 165 expectant mothers and fathers each month to acquaint them with the hospital and staff involved in caring for their new baby. Friends also staff the six Red Cross Bloodmobile drives held each year in the hospital, and they provide more than 3,000 "Friendly Dragon" hand puppets given annually to young pediatric patients.

This Spring the Friends pledged \$7,500, — all their uncommitted savings — to the MMC Capital Campaign "To Meet The Need." The organization also awards scholarships to students in allied health professions education programs at MMC. The Craft Cart, for long-term patients, is stocked and staffed by the Friends.

The Friends provide equipment and financial support for their projects designed to maintain and strengthen communication with patients.

DRGs, from page one _____
complex system:

- the DRG system only applies to Medicare inpatients, of which MMC serves about 7,100 annually (34% of our patient population).
- payment for these cases was formerly based on a reimbursement of the hospital's reported "allowable" costs of providing care. Those costs were calculated on Medicare's terms, and generally fell short of meeting the hospital's real costs.
- the payment for each Medicare patient discharged will now be based on the DRG, with each DRG "worth" a predetermined price. The price is developed by adjusting the average base year costs for discharges within a DRG, using regional and local averages for labor costs and other factors like inflation.
- other factors are figured into each hospital's rate, including allowances for capital requirements and direct and indirect educational costs.
- the payment is for all components of care — room, board, nursing care, drugs, tests, surgical procedures, etc.
- within four years, the system calls for every hospital everywhere in the country to be paid the same amount for the same DRG, regardless of regional differences in the cost of providing care.

"The other thing about a system based on averages," McDowell points out, "is that when you're above average you have an advantage. Since MMC and its people are far above average, we should find our adjustment manageable. It will be different and difficult, but do-able."

Next week, a look at the methods and procedures used in the DRG system, and in following weeks a look at the key people who will be responsible for making sure the system works at MMC.

Thanks...

My family and I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the very special and loving care my father received during his recent hospitalization.

I am proud to know that MMC, my alma mater, renders the quality of care it has been known for in its continued growth. I was truly impressed with the Continuity of Care and awareness of the patient and his needs between the medical, paramedical, and nursing staffs.

Each of you on Richards 1,3,9 and P3A made Dad's stay a little less traumatic. Your patience and understanding helped us cope with the inevitable diagnosis.

So many of you throughout the hospital showed us such thoughtfulness. We will not forget you. God bless you one and all. Your efforts are not unnoticed.

Thanks to Dr. Cox, Dr. Tryzelaar, Dr. Phelps, and staffs' performance, professionalism, and good judgement in handling Dad's care. It was a pleasure for us to know you even under such a stressful situation.

*Very sincerely,
Jayne Hodgkins (daughter),
Helen Hodgkins (wife),
and Richard Hodgkins (son)*

To the people on R7, 6, and 9:

I want to say thank you all for being so special and so caring during my stay at MMC as a bypass heart patient. Thanks to Dr. Driscoll, Dr. Morton and his team of doctors, the Social Workers, and Volunteers. You were all super swell and will never be forgotten by me or by my family.

Wendell Parks

I would like to thank all my friends at MMC who gave me a retirement party and gift September 23. I was thoroughly surprised and deeply touched.

*Sincerely,
Al Reali*

GOING, GOING, GONE. The house at the back corner of the Emergency parking area is gone, demolished by its owner — Maine Medical Center. Removal of the house will allow greatly improved traffic flow in what will eventually become the access area for MMC's Emergency and Ambulatory Surgery entrances, and also the beginning of the service road that will go under and to the back of the new wing. (A/V Photos)



Marketplace

FOR RENT: 1 BR apt., fully furnished. Available now through early June. 5 min. from Portland, on the water. \$400/mo. Call 781-2641.

FOR RENT: Brackett Street apt. 4 blocks from MMC. BR, KT, LR and bath. Avail. with sec. dep. Heat included. \$375/mo. Call 774-1834 after 6pm.

FOR RENT: Apt. near USM in a quiet neighborhood. 1st floor, 2 BRs, LR, DR, KT with stove and refrig., yard, and parking. \$420/mo. plus util. Call 797-4273 evenings.

FOR RENT: Attractive 3 BR house in Portland's Deering area. Fireplace, renovated KT, double garage, pleasant yard. Newly painted throughout. \$750/mo. plus util. Call 772-1614.

FOR RENT: Newly renovated apt. with 3 rooms plus bath. \$350/mo., heat, hot water, electricity included. Parking for one car. Avail. Nov. 1. Call 799-3452 after 5 PM.

FOR RENT: On Crescent St., near MMC. 3 RM, unfurnished, heat and utilities included. Stove, refr. No pets, sec. dep., lease. \$350/mo. Call 797-6687.

FOR RENT: 2 RM apt. on Crescent Street near MMC. Furnished, gas included, heat and lights not included. \$275/mo., no pets. Sec. dep., lease. Call 797-6687.

FOR LEASE: Professional office space. 5,000 sq. ft. in Casco Bay Professional Park, U.S. Rt. 1, Falmouth. Ample onsite parking. Call 781-5292 and ask for Dr. Luck.

FOR SALE: By owner. 2 BR bungalow in Portland residential area. Built-in stove and disposal. \$44,000. Call 797-5986, if no answer 799-5160.

FOR SALE: 1977 Subaru, 2 door, 4 speed, one owner, very little rust, very good condition. \$1,600. Call 799-5071.

FOR SALE: 1975 Cadillac Sedan DeVille, low mileage. Luxury car in excellent running condition. Call 865-3453.

FOR SALE: Datsun B210 sedan, very economical and dependable. Call 865-3453.

FOR SALE: 1967 International pickup. 1/2 ton, many new parts, runs great. A few dents. A solid, dependable truck, little rust. \$1,000. Call 772-0116 evenings.

FOR SALE: 1972 SAAB 4 speed, has had recent engine work, runs very well. Solid body. \$950 or best offer. Call 799-3892.

FOR SALE: 1972 VW Beetle, 52,000 miles. Excellent condition. New paint job, engine tuned. 6 tires (2 new snows) all on rims. Call Sandy at 773-9037. Keep trying.

FOR SALE: 12-foot wooden flat-bottomed skiff, \$100. Call 865-3788. Keep trying.

FOR SALE: A large metal desk, \$60. Call 799-2734.

FOR SALE: King-size bed frame, boxsprings, and maple headboard. \$65. Call Nancy at 799-5026 after 5 PM.

FOR SALE: Classic 26" single speed Columbia highway patrol bicycle. "Gas tank," center bar, sprung seat, original red paint. Vintage, well-built bicycle, stored 20 years. \$200 or best offer. Call 929-8405.

FOR SALE: Woodstove. Jotul #1 combi-fire. Used once. \$500 or best offer. Call 761-0258 evenings.

FOR SALE: 4 radial snow tires, 13", 2 on rims, excellent condition. Call 642-4836.

FOR SALE: 2 tires, practically new with 9/32 tread, size 155/13, \$50 the pair. Oil-filled electric heater used one heating season, excellent condition, \$55. One pair of women's cross country ski boots, choice of size 7 1/2 or 8 (38 or 39). One 9' by 12' chocolate brown rug, excellent condition, used 8 months, \$50. Call 761-0818 evenings.

FOR SALE: Camera, OM-1 with 50 mm f1.8 lens and 200mm f4, all in excellent condition. \$280. Call 767-2218.

FOR SALE: round butcher block table with pedestal 48" diameter, \$50. 3 cushion brown velvet sofa, excellent condition, \$350. Call 761-0848 evenings.

FOR SALE: Early American wing sofa, \$50. 1981 Kawasaki motorcycle, 440cc belt drive. Low mileage, excellent condition, \$1,000 firm. Bell helmet, full face, like new, \$50. Women's helmet, full face, brand new, \$40. Call 797-5292.

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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.

Barbara Burns, Editor

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ROOMMATE WANTED: Female to share house with 2 professional women. Nice yard, sunny rooms and parking. Call 799-2734.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Mature, responsible M/F. Nice place, 5 large rooms, fireplace, your own bedroom, walking distance to USM and MMC. \$200/mo. includes all util. \$200 deposit. Available Oct. 1. Call 773-8520 between 7-9 PM only. Leave name and phone number or contact John on 1st floor at 42 Mellen Street.

HOUSE CLEANING: Reliable and experienced. 6 hrs. weekly (1 day). Thursday or Friday, \$4/hr. Can provide transportation if needed. Call 781-2567.

HOUSE CLEANING: Reliable, experienced woman. Local references furnished. Everything from dirty refrigerators to dusty baseboards. Will also clean offices. Call Sparkles Service AM or evenings after 8 PM, 773-3079. Will clean only in the Portland area.

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR Paint and wallpaper. Call Joe at 773-0934.

Morphology

THE LAST LAW

If several things that could have gone wrong have not gone wrong, it would have been ultimately beneficial for them to have gone wrong.

CAPONE'S LAW

You can get much farther with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone.

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