



Truman VA BULLETIN

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Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital, Columbia, Missouri

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New Employees / Departing Employees — Page Two*
- *Office of Information and Technology “Computer Corner” — Page Four*
- *Change in Hospital Smoking Policy — Page Two*



HEALTH CARE “REPORT CARD” GIVES VA HIGH MARKS

A new “hospital report card” by VA gives the Department’s health care system high marks, with VA facilities often outscoring private-sector health plans in standards commonly accepted by the health care industry. Among the report’s findings:

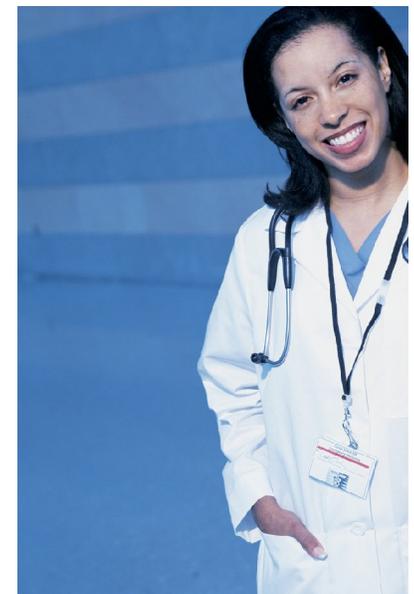
- 98 percent of veterans were seen within 30 days at primary care facilities; 97 percent at specialty clinics and veterans requiring emergency care were seen immediately.
- All 153 VA medical centers are accredited by the Joint Commission.
- The quality scores for older veterans are similar to those for younger veterans.

The report noted that, although screening for breast and cervical cancer for women in VA facilities exceeds screening in private-sector facilities, women veterans lag behind their male counterparts in some quality measurements. VA has already launched an aggressive program to ensure women veterans receive the highest quality of care, including placement of women advocates in every outpatient clinic and medical center. Health care was a major topic at VA’s National Summit on Women Veterans Issues held June 20-22 in Washington.

The report also found minority veterans are generally less satisfied with inpatient and outpatient care

than white veterans. That disparity will be the focus of an in-depth study, based upon input from veterans, which will be completed this summer. “Disparities in treatment and satisfaction based on gender or ethnic background are unacceptable,” VA Secretary James Peake said. “VA has a robust program to look at disparities and to deal with the underlying causes.”

Secretary Peake further asserted that this report demonstrated VA’s determination to be open and accountable for the quality and safety of the care provide. No other health care organization provides this much information about its ability to care for its patients.



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HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Truman VA’s Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Committee is pleased to share information received recently from Harvard University about a program where undergraduate students from lower-income families will pay no tuition.

If you know of a family earning less than \$60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, please let them know about this opportunity.

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition, visit the university’s financial aid

Web site at: <http://admis.fas.harvard.edu/FAO/index.htm> or call the financial aid office at 617-495-1581.



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!

NEW AND DEPARTING EMPLOYEES

Welcome

Maureen Bressett, RPh,
Pharmacist (Pharmacy)
Thomas Comte, MD,
Staff Physician (PC)
Shanelle Carolan,
Physical Therapy Aid (CS)
George Milliner,
Maintenance Worker (FM)
Courtney Phillips,
Physical Therapy Intern (CS)

Farewell

Carole Bernard, PhD,
Psychologist (BH)
Brandon Marshall,
Nuclear Medicine Tech (CS)
Keyonna Warren,
Nursing Assistant (PC)



Maureen Bressett, RPh and Thomas Comte, MD
Shanelle Carolan (unavailable), George Milliner (unavailable),
Courtney Phillips, (unavailable)

*“Smoking shelter
hours for patients
will be 6:00 AM
to 8:30 PM
daily”*



CHANGES IN HOSPITAL SMOKING POLICY

The Truman VA smoking policy has been under revision and will be issued in the near future to coincide with the relocation of the smoking shelter in early August. The current smoking shelter in Pershing Park will be closed in preparation for the upcoming major construction project to replace and renovate the OR suites and adjacent support activities. A new smoking shelter will be

erected on the southeast side of the hospital near the visitor's parking lot.

Key changes in the revised smoking policy include:

- Smoking will be prohibited within 35 feet of any building entrance or the MRI trailer, which is a patient care area.
- There will be two designated smoking areas on the grounds of the facility.
- Employees are to use the benches just south of Building

#21, adjacent to Service Drive and the Grounds Shop area.

- Patients are to use the newly erected smoking shelter.
- Smoking hours for patients will be limited to 6:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. To further reinforce our facility's security requirements, access to the smoking shelter will not be allowed after 8:30 p.m. each day.

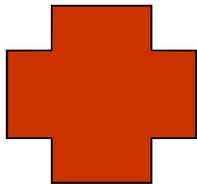
TRUMAN VA BLOOD DRIVE, JULY 7-8

Truman VA Hospital, the American Red Cross and the St. Louis Cardinals are inviting you to step up to the plate and donate! Attempt to donate blood on Monday, July 7 (12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.) or Tuesday, July 8 (7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) in the auditorium and you will receive a specially designed Cardinals "Step Up to the Plate and Donate" t-shirt. Your help is needed

this summer. Every blood donation can help save the lives of up to three people – an entire outfield! Please be a member of the team this summer and give the gift of life.

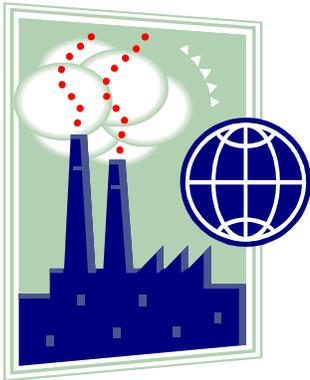
To make an appointment, contact (1) your service line canvasser, (2) Larry Propp in Research at extension 56553 or (3) Barbara Johnson at the American Red Cross at

johnsonba@usa.redcross.org
or 573-449-2656 extension 2505. Appointments are available every 15 minutes during both days of the blood drive.



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!

SAFETY CORNER, GEMS NEWS



GEMS? What is it? GEMS stands for Green Environmental Management Systems, an all encompassing approach to addressing the impact our hospital has on the environment.

How can you contribute to a greener environment? You can help through conservation, waste minimization and recycling. Last year, Truman VA recycled 28 percent of all solid waste generated. That's more than 147 tons

of waste diverted from landfills and reused to save resources. Our facility currently recycles paper, cardboard, wood pallets, metals, pharmaceuticals, computers, fluorescent light bulbs and batteries.

What's new? We have a new and improved battery recycling program. To find out what to do with the used batteries that you generate at work, check out the "Battery Disposal 101"

PowerPoint on MY PEAK. It's short and cute and worth an hour of training credit!

Suggestions, questions or concerns? Call the Safety Office at extension 56307 or 56306.

TRUMAN VA RECOGNIZED FOR INFORMATION AWARENESS ACTIVITY

In May, Truman VA received an InfoSec 2008 award for last year's Information Protection Awareness week activities that attracted more than 700 employees and veterans. During the event, the Information Security Officer (ISO), Privacy Officer and Compliance Officer distributed brochures on identity theft, privacy and compliance. The award was given for our efforts to

work together in creating interesting activities that helped instill information security practices into our organization and demonstrating excellence in information protection. Congratulations!

The 2008 VA Information Protection Week was conducted June 23-27 with an emphasis on VA employees' responsibility to "Be the

Strongest Link" in the protection of veteran and employee personally identifiable information (PII). During the week, employees had a chance to show their knowledge – with a 10-question quiz – and win a nominal prize.

"Be the strongest link!"



HELPFUL HINTS FOR HEALTHY EMPLOYEES

- Studies show that exercise can lead to a dramatic drop in the risk for chronic illnesses like diabetes, cancer and heart disease.
- Those who exercised for one time per week for one year cut their sick days in half.
- A recent study showed that employees' quality of life, mental performance and time management was 15 percent better on days

when they exercised.

- The U.S. Surgeon General reports 30 minutes of daily activity such as walking or biking can produce long-term health benefits.



Exercise can maintain your health into your retirement years and throughout your life.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The Office of Information & Technology (OI&T) customer service feedback form provides valuable information about the quality of service that customers receive from OI&T employees. The link to the feedback form is included in the Outlook message delivered to you when a work order is completed. Your feedback is received and reviewed only by the Chief Information Officer (CIO), Donna

Krause, and follow-up contact by the CIO is optional if you provide your name and telephone extension. Please take advantage of this tool to share comments about your OI&T experience.



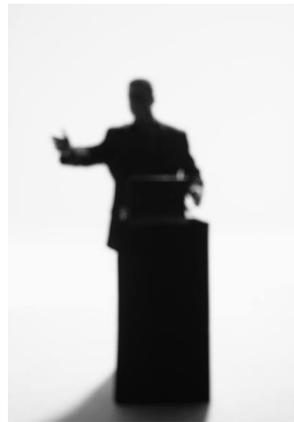
Please give OI&T your feedback.

ALL EMPLOYEE TOWN HALL MEETING



Happy Fourth!

The next All Employee Town Hall meetings are scheduled at 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Friday, July 18, in the auditorium.



HARRY S. TRUMAN MEMORIAL VETERANS HOSPITAL, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI



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(573) 814-6000

Committed to Providing Quality Care to Our Nation's Military Veterans.



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!