



Truman VA BULLETIN

Department of Veterans Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Volume 2008, Issue 27

Take Note:

- Health Benefits Open Season has been extended to January 31, 2009. Changes to your Health Plan may be made at the Employee Express Website.
- Christmas is Thursday, December 25.

SECRETARY OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS NOMINEE

President-elect **Barack Obama** recently identified **Eric Shinseki**, a retired U.S. Army General, to be the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Shinseki, a Japanese-American born in Hawaii, won two Purple Hearts in Vietnam for injuries that included the loss of part of his right foot. He retired as a four-star general in

2003 after serving as the Army's Chief of Staff from 1999 to 2003. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1965 and earned a master's degree from Duke University in 1976. The U.S. Senate must confirm his appointment.



OPEN SEASON EXTENDED FOR BENEFIT CHANGES

In response to concerns over a change in coverage from one provider for out-of-network non-emergency surgeries, the open season for employees to make changes to their health, dental or vision insurance as well as the flexible spending account program was extended through January 2009. Belated health insurance changes will take effect the first day of the pay period that starts on or after Jan. 1. Belated vision/dental insurance

changes will take effect Jan. 1. Belated flexible spending account changes will take effect on Jan. 1 or the day after the change is received, whichever is later. For more information, contact **Anna Kahle** (HR) at extension 56399.

You may also consult the following Website:

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>



Inside this issue:

December Holidays	2
Administrative Data Quality Tip	3
OI&T Computer Corner	3
Welcome and Farewell	4
Wall of Fame	4
December Blood Drive	4

OUR NEXT COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

On Dec. 4, Secretary of Veterans Affairs **Dr. James B. Peake** announced the establishment of 31 new community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in 16 states over the next two years. A Sedalia, Mo. clinic, scheduled to open in

FY 2010, was included in the announcement. The Sedalia CBOC will be the seventh community clinic for Truman VA. Other clinics are located at Fort Leonard Wood, Kirksville, Camdenton, St. James, Mexico and Jefferson City.



DECEMBER HOLIDAYS



CHRISTMAS (December 25)

Christmas is the annual Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. The story of Christmas can be found in two Gospels of the New Testament, the books of Matthew and Luke. It is from these accounts that many of the symbols and traditions of the holiday have grown. It is traditionally observed on December 25. Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate it on January 7, which corresponds to December 25 of the Julian calendar. These dates are merely traditional. The precise chronology of Jesus' birth and death is still debated. Christmas has many aspects, both religious and secular, including the exchange of gifts, Santa Claus, decorations and display of the Christmas tree as well as religious ceremonies. The popularity of Christmas can be traced in part to its status as a winter festival of celebration and gift giving. Many cultures historically celebrated their most important holiday in winter because there was less agricultural work to do. Various local and regional Christmas traditions are still practiced, despite the widespread influence of American, Australian, and British Christmas motifs disseminated by film, popular literature, television and other media.



HANUKKAH (December 21-29)

Hanukkah is the annual Jewish festival celebrated on eight successive days beginning on the 25th day of Kislev, the third month of the Jewish calendar, corresponding, approximately, to December in the Gregorian calendar. It is also known as the Festival of Lights, Feast of Dedication and Feast of the Maccabees. In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means dedication. The holiday commemorates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem after the victory of a Jewish army commanded by Judah Maccabee in 165 BC over a Syrian army led by Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria. After three years of war, the Jewish soldiers reclaimed the temple in Jerusalem, which required significant cleaning and repair. When the job was finished, the Maccabees decided to hold a big dedication ceremony and wanted to light the menorah. After searching everywhere, a small flask of oil that contained only enough oil for one day was found. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days, which allowed enough time to obtain new oil for the menorah. Today, Jews celebrate Hanukkah by lighting candles in a menorah every night to commemorate the eight-day miracle.



KWANZAA (December 26-January 1)

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African-American holiday that celebrates family, community and culture over a seven-day period in late December. Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of Black Studies at Long Beach State University, created the holiday in 1966. After the Watts riots in Los Angeles, Karenga searched for ways to bring African Americans together as a community. He founded a cultural organization, US, and researched African harvest or "first fruit" celebrations, combining aspects of several different harvest celebrations to form the basis of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means first fruits in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder) and one of the seven principles, called "Nguzo Saba" in Swahili, is discussed. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.



ADMINISTRATIVE DATA QUALITY (ADQ) TIP OF THE MONTH

Test accounts should be used whenever possible to perform testing or software fixes and new functionality as well as for training new staff. However, under certain circumstances, it is necessary to use live production VistA systems for these activities. In such cases, it is essential that TEST patient records are entered and used correctly and carefully. The following guidance must be followed:

- ◆ All TEST patient records must be entered with an SSN containing five leading 0s and the last name must be prefixed by ZZ.
- ◆ TEST patient records should be used strictly for testing purposes only. Be aware that real patient records do exist with the last name of

TEST and variations of TEST.

- ◆ No real data should be used within TEST patient entries and real patient records should never be converted to TEST patients.
- ◆ Duplicate patient entries identified within VistA systems should not be designated as TEST patients. Instead, the SSN should be changed to a pseudo SSN and the records merged as soon as possible.

Since the implementation of the Master Patient Index's Primary View business rules, sites can no longer change an existing real patient record into a TEST patient record. Sites will need to contact the Identity Management Data Quality Team to manually update any records that need this change

made. Guidance is provided in the VHA Master Patient Index Directive 2006-036. Efforts to ensure the privacy and safety of our patients by using the TEST patient designation carefully and appropriately is appreciated. Questions regarding the use of TEST patients should be e-mailed to the IMDQ Team through the VHA OI IA MPI DQ TEAM distribution group in Outlook.

OI&T CORNER HINTS AND INFORMATION

◆ If you accidentally delete Outlook e-mail or your Deleted Items mailbox, you can recover those documents. You have the power! **TOOLS > Recover Deleted Items.**

◆ If you cancel a meeting and no longer need the conference room you reserved, you can cancel the reservations if you scheduled the room. Follow these steps in VistA:

Confirmation the room has been canceled: **Requested room schedule has been canceled.**

^ Cancel Room Request

Enter in Schedule room listing date : < **enter reservation date** >

Select ROOM NUMBER: < **enter room # - all alpha characters MUST be in UPPERCASE** >

Select Starting time : < **enter meeting start time, for example: 10, 10AM, 10:30; 1PM, 13:00 in hour or half hour intervals** >





WELCOME

Jacqueline Fernald-Leal, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

Kerry Kroeker, Nurse Practitioner (PS)

Garrett Phillips, IT Specialist (OI&T)

FAREWELL

Brenda Hackett, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

Kathryn Horstmann, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

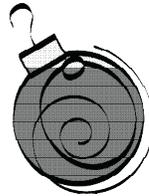
Joy Villanueva, Supervisory Accountant (FIN)

Karen Watson, Program Support Assistant (COS)

Department of Veterans Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000



Odds and Ends

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – DEC. 15-16

The American Red Cross is holding another blood drive in the Truman VA auditorium on Monday, Dec. 15 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Donors may schedule appointments by logging on to the following Web site: www.givelife.org. The sponsor code is TMVH. Walk-ins are always welcome.

TRUMAN VA "WALL OF FAME"

In 1999, Truman VA established a "VA Wall of Fame" to recognize employees that are also veterans. Located on the first floor in the corridor by the vending area, the display includes a current photograph alongside a military photo to acknowledge employees that have served our country. The photographs are displayed on a rotating basis. Employees that have not already participated and that wish to do so should contact **Jim Broadus** at extension 52717.

EMPLOYEE AWARDS

DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Scott Sandstedt, PhD (BH)

NOVEMBER STAR OF THE MONTH:

John Whited, MD ★ (Research)

OCTOBER STAR OF THE MONTH:

Kim W. Sipe ★ (CS)

