Employee transportation stops to be relocated Sept. 28

The stop for the Commonwealth Stadium employee parking shuttle service (6 a.m. – 11 p.m.) will be relocated to the front of the Peter P. Bosomworth Health Sciences Research Building (HSRB) on VA Drive beginning Friday, Sept. 28.

After-hours shuttle call service 11 p.m. – 5:55 a.m. will remain at its current location. Similarly, deliveries that are not appropriate for the loading dock can continue to be made in a designated portion of UK Chandler Hospital’s front loop.

“After looking at all of the alternatives, these changes seemed our best option to improve access to the Chandler entrance.”

– Sandra Chambers, associate hospital director, UK Chandler Hospital

UK HealthCare’s new parking structure on S. Limestone will partially open Nov. 19. At that time, a new shuttle service will begin transporting patients, families and visitors from the structure to UK Chandler Hospital’s main entrance and emergency department. Moving the shuttle stop will accommodate the patient shuttle arrivals and departures and address concerns expressed by medical center employees about the impact on patients of excessive congestion in the front loop of UK Chandler Hospital.

“For quite some time we have struggled with too much traffic and congestion at the hospital’s front doors,” said Sandra Chambers, associate hospital director, UK Chandler Hospital. “After looking at all of the alternatives, these changes seemed to be the best we could make to improve access to the Chandler entrance, which becomes even more urgent in November with the opening of the new garage. We are expecting congestion on the front loop to increase dramatically as we begin operating a shuttle continuously from the garage that will drop off all garage parkers at the hospital’s front entrance.”

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Employee transportation stops relocated on Sept. 28

Benefits of the move
Relocating the employee shuttle stop to the HSRB will not only improve access for patients and visitors, but also provides employees the benefits of:
- A less congested route that will shorten the shuttle ride by 3-5 minutes,
- Reduced waiting times and lines for shuttle riders due to faster shuttle turnaround, and
- An indoor climate-controlled waiting area in the HSRB lobby.

The walk between the HSRB lobby and UK Chandler Hospital’s north lobby takes approximately two minutes via the courtyards between the buildings. During inclement weather, an alternate route through interior hallways provides access to the rear of the hospital near the north lobby. The interior and exterior routes will be marked initially to help employees find their way.

Drop-offs and pick-ups on Rose Street
Because UK Chandler Hospital’s front loop is for patient and visitor use only and because VA Drive near the HSRB must be kept clear for shuttle service.

Only the former LexTran bus shelter on Rose St. in front of the Chandler mural has been designated for employee pickup or dropoff. Vehicles waiting to pick up employees may wait at Commonwealth Stadium until the employee calls.

Garage fully opens early 2008
The new parking structure on 5th Limestone is expected to open fully in early 2008, providing approximately 1,600 spaces for patient and visitor parking. More details on parking capacity, shuttle services and other options in the new structure will be published in upcoming issues of Vital Signs.

Cancer center in Hazard joins Markey affiliates

Patients in eastern Kentucky now have advanced cancer treatment services close to home, thanks to a new affiliation partnership between the Markey Cancer Center and Hazard ARH Regional Medical Center.

“The Markey Cancer Center is honored that Hazard ARH has chosen to partner with us as we both strive to improve the care of our neighbors.”

— Dr. Robert T. Means, Jr., interim director of Markey Cancer Center

With the opening of a new $7 million, 10,000-square-foot cancer center on the ARH campus, Hazard becomes the fourth affiliate site in the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network, which already includes St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead, Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center in Mt. Vernon and Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana.

The Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network strives to create an association of health-care providers who will collaborate with Markey Cancer Center clinicians and researchers for the purpose of improving quality of care, preventive medicine, education and research into cancer and related diseases throughout the Commonwealth.

The new ARH Cancer Center includes:

- A board-certified radiation oncologist and a board-certified medical oncologist-hematologist with a combined total of nearly 40 years experience treating all forms of cancer.
- A board-certified radiation physicist, along with ARRT-certified radiation therapists.
- The latest in treatment techniques from Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) to Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT).
- Varian Clinac® IX Radiation Therapy Linear Accelerator, which delivers the most accurate radiation beams using image-guided radiation therapy to precisely target cancers and rotates around the patient to deliver treatment from almost any angle.
- State-of-the-art radiation therapy treatment planning system
- GE CT Therapy Simulator, custom-designed to replicate patient position and imaging as they will be treated on the linear accelerator.
- A dedicated chemotherapy suite, which offers patients comfortable La-Z-Boy recliner treatment chairs and more.
- Additional exam rooms and expanded patient and family waiting areas.

Get to know Medical Staff Affairs

This article begins a series to spotlight departments throughout UK HealthCare.

As any member of the UK HealthCare team knows, it takes a lot of people in a lot of different departments to run this huge organization. The Medical Staff Affairs office is in charge of ensuring that all health-care providers seeking to practice at UK have the necessary qualifications. In other words, they must directly verify all information in the credentialing applications received from health-care providers. This involves verifying each provider’s educational background, competency, work history, licensure, malpractice history, Medicare sanctions, board certifications and more.

If this isn’t enough to keep them busy, the team must review all of this information every two years. In this process and in tandem with other UK departments, they are able to keep UK HealthCare informed about new providers available at UK and ensure that our organization is compliant with the rules and regulations of all credentialing regulatory bodies.

The Medical Staff Affairs office also facilitates payer audits, becoming the liaison between UK HealthCare providers and their payers. The payers visit the Medical Staff Office on a yearly basis to audit for compliance. What this means for UK HealthCare providers is that they complete only one managed care application for the approximately 20 contracts currently processed by Medical Staff Affairs and Kentucky Medical Services Foundation.

Meet the Medical Staff Affairs team:

Kevin Nelson, MD, director

Paula Bargo, coordinator

Arianna Paterson, CPC-S, credentialing specialist
UK career: 13 years (5 1/2 in plastic surgery before joining the Medical Staff Affairs Office). Hometown: Born in Alabama, raised in Lexington. Hobbies: handicrafts, light gardening, cooking, active at Bluegrass Bible Fellowship in Richmond where she plays the cello.

Virginia "Ginny" Simms, credentialing specialist
UK career: 3 1/2 years. Hometown: Born in Cincinnati, raised in Lexington. Hobbies: Sports (particularly softball), raising her daughter.

Kentucky Children’s Hospital new NICU clinic opens in Hazard

Kentucky Children’s Hospital’s new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Graduate Clinic officially opened mid-August at the UK Center for Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard. As the only Kentucky outreach clinic for neonatal follow-up, the clinic provides specialized medical and developmental follow-up care for babies and young children until about two years of age. The clinic primarily serves babies who were cared for in the Kentucky Children’s Hospital NICU, but any child born prematurely who is at risk for developmental problems is welcome.

“ar are very pleased that we are able to begin NICU follow-up services for children closer to their homes,” said Dr. Tim Bricker, physician-in-chief of Kentucky Children’s Hospital. “The roles of the UK Center for Excellence in Rural Health and the Kentucky Department for Public Health have been the key to our being able to start this new service.”
Healthy competition: Employees dedicated to healthier living

Employees throughout UK HealthCare are actively taking control of their weight with some friendly—and healthy—competition.

Valerie Cothran, MD, a physician at Kentucky Clinic North and assistant professor of family medicine, borrowed the name of a hit NBC television show and organized a “Biggest Loser” competition for employees at the clinic in March. Participants each contributed $5 to a pot that would be awarded to the person who lost the most weight at the end of the program. Competitors also were required to contribute an additional $1 for each pound gained. Weekly weigh-ins kept the competition honest.

After seven weeks, Wanda Tyler, a phlebotomist at the clinic, lost 17 lbs. to beat 13 other staff members and win more than $100. A second round of competition ended in July, with Starr Adams, clinic pharmacist, losing 14 lbs. and winning $88 for her effort. Most of the employees who participated have decided to continue the competition the rest of the year.

“I think having the competition at work helped,” Dr. Cothran said. “People would go for walks together during breaks or bring in healthier food alternatives to share. It really got everyone in that mode of healthier living.”

CATS red route extended to Good Samaritan Hospital

UK Parking & Transportation Services (PTS) has extended its CATS bus red route to include a stop at UK Good Samaritan Hospital’s main entrance to facilitate transportation between that facility and UK Chandler Hospital. The red route will continue to serve Commonwealth Village and main campus. For route maps and schedules, visit the PTS campus bus and shuttle information www.uky.edu/Parking/transportation-buses-shuttles.html.

Send eGreetings!

Families and friends can send e-mail greetings to patients.

ukhealthcare.uky.edu/eGreet