It’s the time of year to select voluntary group health benefits for the upcoming plan year, which begins July 1 and continues through June 30, 2013.

During the annual Open Enrollment period (April 23 through through May 11), UK employees may update their benefits online through myUK Employee Self-Service (https://myuk.uky.edu) or by submitting paper enrollment forms. Details on features, rates, enrollment instructions and more are available on the UK Benefits Open Enrollment website (www.uky.edu/HR/OE).

Note that enrollment is generally not required unless you need to make changes, such as adding, stopping or changing level of coverage or covered dependents or if you wish to participate in health care or dependent care flexible spending accounts.

During this time, employees may update enrollment in health plans, including UK Health Maintenance Organization (UK-HMO), UK Preferred Provider Organization (UK-PPO), UK Regional Health Plan (UK-RHP) and UK Exclusive Provider Organization (UK-EPO). Employees may also consider dental, vision, optional life insurance, as well as health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts.

It’s also an ideal time to review all voluntary benefit options available to employees, including new guaranteed-issue cancer/specified disease insurance, short-term disability insurance, and dependent life insurance, among others. Employees can also learn more about health and wellness benefits, including smoking cessation support, free dietitian consultations and more.

Several Open Enrollment Open House events are planned, offering a great opportunity to gather information, ask questions and to submit forms. (See list, right).
Chair massage, April 23
$5 for 10 minutes for $10 for 20 minutes,
170 Bio Pharm Bldg., 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Reservations and payment required in advance. Appointments: (859) 257-WELL.
More information at www.uky.edu/HR/wellness.

Senior Housing Options, April 25
Margaret McCoskey, MSW, community relations director, Liberty Ridge Retirement Community, will discuss various housing options for senior community living, the care one can expect to receive at each level, expected cost, and what is available in our area. Charles T. Wethington building, Commons Room (127), 12:10-12:50 p.m. Register at www.uky.edu/HR/WorkLife.

Concert on the Lawn, April 27
Benefitting Markey Cancer Center, Keeneland Racecourse, 7:30 p.m. More information at www.markeycancerfoundation.org.

College of Nursing BSN Pinning Ceremony, graduate student hooding ceremony and reception, May 4
Pinning: 1 p.m., Singletary Center for the Arts, 405 Rose Street, Lexington
Hooding and reception honoring December 2011, May 2012 MSN, DNP and PhD graduates: 10 a.m., also at Singletary Center.

Lexington Arthritis Walk, May 12
(UK HealthCare is a presenting sponsor). Lexington Legends Ballpark, 10 a.m. (9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. start). Dogs welcome. To form a team, register online or to get more information, visit www.2012lexingtonarthritiswalk.kintera.org.

Blood drive, May 16
Alumni Park Plaza, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Photo ID required.

Blood drive, May 17-18
UK Chandler Pavilion H, Room 133, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Photo ID required.

HAPPENINGS

UK HealthCare, Norton Healthcare create new Partnership for Quality to address the state’s pressing health challenges

The third annual County Health Rankings, released April 3 by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sums up as well as anything the sound reasoning behind UK HealthCare and Norton Healthcare’s newly formed collaboration on educational and research initiatives.

According to the data, Kentucky holds the dubious honor of serving as home to the nation’s least healthy county, Owsley. It joins other counties located in the southeastern part of our state as among the nation’s least healthy.

To help address these challenges, a new nonprofit organization, the Norton Healthcare UK HealthCare Partnership for Quality, has been formed. The group will focus on educational and research initiatives to initially focus on improving population health in many areas, beginning with cancer care, stroke and heart disease. Leadership from both organizations serve on the board of directors of the new nonprofit.

Clinical leaders at UK HealthCare involved in the collaboration are:
• Michael Dobbs, MD, director of the UK Comprehensive Stroke Program, who is growing his existing stroke affiliate program as part of this collaboration and supporting epidemiologic research studies with the creation of a new statewide stroke registry;
• Susan Smyth, MD, PhD, chief of cardiovascular medicine, who is contributing to the launch of new acute myocardial infarction care program for affiliate hospitals, and;
• Mark Evers, MD, director of Markey Cancer Center, which is partnering with the Norton Cancer Institute to develop joint programs to reduce the incidence of cancer in Kentucky and developing care systems between the two enterprises for cancer care and research collaboration.

“Norton Healthcare, as the key sponsoring partner of our statewide stroke affiliate program, brings permanent resources to increase the amount of stroke education and training we deliver to affiliate hospitals,” says Dr. Dobbs. “By combining Norton Healthcare and UK HealthCare hospitals, there are now 20 Kentucky hospitals in our network striving to improve systems of stroke care in the Commonwealth.”
The Joint Commission accreditation preparation provides opportunity for all to contribute

It’s the time of year to spring-clean, but don’t expect preparation for full UK HealthCare medical campus accreditation by The Joint Commission (TJC) to be similarly seasonal.

“Quality has gotten pumped-up focus that isn’t going to go away once accrediting bodies leave our buildings,” says Jennifer Brown, interim director of accreditation and regulatory Compliance, Office of Enterprise Safety and Quality. She adds, “Health care stakeholders are increasingly aware that quality isn’t what it could be and are insisting that regulatory processes reflect the need for safe patient care every hour, every day, in every hospital and clinic, year-round.”

UK HealthCare hospitals Chief Administrative Officer Ann Smith has charged the Brown-led accreditation management team (AMT) with accreditation preparation, mock survey response and continuous improvement. Brown and Amy Hopwood, accreditation specialist, have rolled up their sleeves following a February visit from The Joint Commission Resources, a consultancy, to help prepare the UK HealthCare enterprise for the “real” visit by the end of this calendar year.

The four-day February “dry run,” which included observations, interviews and documentation review, was designed to “look us over in terms of our how we are meeting quality and patient safety standards, treatment and services,” Brown said. “We wanted the consultants to confirm belief in what we’re doing right and to identify the risk points that we, like every medical enterprise, have.

The consultants have done this, and now, it’s up to us to minimize risk, develop remedies and continue to ensure that our patients are getting the best possible care, she said.

The mock survey identified organizational strengths, such as:
- Handling of medical waste management;
- Expansion of OR space at UK Chandler Hospital;
- Staff knowledge of translator services.

It also identified opportunities, including:
- Properly separating clean and soiled items in utility rooms;
- Familiarization with what to do following a workplace violence incident;
- Keeping fullest possible records of patient care that includes consultation from ancillary care specialists, such as dietitians.

The AMT, which meets weekly, has identified areas of focus, responsible parties, and calendar-associated milestones. And, AMT members have begun making “surprise” visits to areas of the enterprise, playing the role of TJC surveyors to continue to identify risk areas while there’s time to implement fixes.


“All of us are stakeholders,” Brown adds.

John Cole

Beginning with this issue, we will spotlight an employee on a more personal level, focusing sometimes on workplace skills of which everyone might not be aware, or on an employee’s hobbies or out-of-office time. It happens that medical interpreter and language arts specialist John Cole’s contributions complement The Joint Commission preparation, so John earns inaugural spotlight. To nominate yourself or a co-worker for this spotlight, contact Vital Signs editor Susan Dunlap (859-257-5361 or susan.dunlap@uky.edu).

The Joint Commission Resources Consultant Carol Curran waited all of a split second for an answer to her question about how to get language support for patients for whom English is not their first language.

“John Cole,” more than one clinician blurted.

That would be interpreter-translator-instructor-editor-writer John Cole.

Based at UK Good Samaritan Hospital, Cole’s title is coordinator, Interpreter Services. He speaks Spanish, Russian, French, German and Italian. He has completed doctoral level study in Russian and Spanish, and master’s level courses in German. He studied two years of Mandarin, has also studied Swahili, Japanese and Korean.

That’s apparently not enough. John is currently devoting what he calls “light study” to Arabic, Hindi and Nepali, as well as refreshing his Swahili, “to address basic communication needs of the current trend of these languages at UK HealthCare,” he said.

A UK employee since 2007, when UK purchased Good Samaritan Hospital, John cites his first “foreign” language study as an eight-year-old flashcarding medical terminology with his mother Doris Carr (formerly Doris Cole), who for many years was supervisor of medical records at University Health Service.

Spotlight: John Cole
UK HealthCare on standby during NCAA men’s basketball tourney

The raucous celebrations that broke out when the University of Kentucky men’s basketball team vied against the University of Louisville Cardinals in an NCAA Final Four match-up is now history, and so is the national championship that the Wildcats captured April 2.

As the men’s basketball team moved closer throughout the March Madness tournament to the prized mantle, fans seemed to grow more brazen. Fires were set March 30 near the UK medical center, enough to convince most every enterprise employee of the potential for trouble the night of championship, trouble that might require emergency preparedness.

While UK HealthCare was impacted by the closing of Limestone and additional admissions to both emergency departments, the enterprise was able to manage its response to the revelry.

“The UK Police Department and campus administration did a stellar job of preparing for emergencies,” said UK HealthCare hospitals Chief Administrative Officer Ann Smith.

A self-professed Wildcat fan, Smith said it made her “sad” that some chose to celebrate in a destructive manner. However, she said, referring to UK Security, the Physical Plant Division and UK HealthCare staff, “It was remarkable to watch the preparations and the implementation in a manner that was coordinated, effective and truly kind.”

Employee survey wraps up; results coming soon

From left: Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs, presents Heather VanHooser, Emergency and Trauma Services, with an Apple iPod Nano. VanHooser, to Dr. Karpf’s left, was among employees randomly selected as a prize winner following completion of the employee survey that will be shared with senior leadership and relied upon to shape the culture of our workplace. The two are joined by Patricia K. Howard, operations manager, Emergency and Trauma Services, and Matt Proud, patient care manager for trauma services.

Amberlee Nickell, employee engagement manager, said results are under analysis by workplace consultants Morehead & Associates. Findings will be reported, along with a summary of next steps, in the June issue of Vital Signs.

UK College of Pharmacy fifth in new U.S. News & World Report survey

The University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy ranks as fifth-best pharmacy school in the nation, according to the recently released U.S. News & World Report’s 2013 Edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools, made available April 3.

Dean Tim Tracy said the news made for a “prideful day for the UK College of Pharmacy,” adding, “This survey shows how highly we are thought of by our peers at institutions around the country.”

Poster wins national competition

The National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) sponsored poster presentations at its March conference, and UK HealthCare walked away with the top prize. Jessica Cornett, pictured, radiology pediatric lead technologist, and Kathleen Hysman-Panzarella, RN, Kentucky Children’s Hospital, submitted “I Don’t Wanna Sleep: Alternatives to Pediatric Sedation.”

Cornett sent “kudos to our CT and MRI technologists and everyone else who helped make this a great initiative.” She reports that representatives from other top-ranked pediatric institutions were “very interested in our information We hope to continue to grow this project even more.”
UK students compete in Clarion National Case Competition

Three UK students recently won a campus patient safety competition, providing them an opportunity to compete at the Clarion National Case Competition in Minneapolis this month. The winning team included two students representing professional colleges associated with UK HealthCare. They are Julia Wheeler from the College of Pharmacy and Yuan Wen from the College of Medicine.

Duo identifies $100,000+ in materials savings

Cost-savings estimated at more than $100,000 annually have been identified by Tonya Brooks, left, and Barb Atkins of Respiratory Care. The savings are being realized by standardizing filters used in ventilators across UK Chandler and UK Good Samaritan hospitals and moving to less expensive HME filters and aerosol bottles, as well as moving to a PEP device from a flutter valve product.

College of Medicine hosts annual Match Day

Members of the College of Medicine Class of 2012 held their annual Match Day Ceremony March 16, marking one of the most important and emotional days of their lives as they learned where they will begin their careers as doctors after graduation.

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Michael Daugherty, MD, Owensboro, holding his son, learned on Match Day that he will do a preliminary residency year in medicine at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, then will work in Diagnostic Radiology at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Larissa Kern, MD, Lexington, Ky., one of the first students to graduate from the Rural Physician Leadership Program, will do a Community and Family Medicine residency at UK HealthCare.

Paul Huynh, MD, Bowling Green, Ky., will do an Anesthesiology residency at UK HealthCare.

Did you know?

UK students from the colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy have been participating in a series of interprofessional education seminars as they train to become more efficient members of an interdisciplinary health care team.

UK’s goal in interprofessional education is to teach systems-based, holistic decision-making by empowering students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience necessary to enable them to solve complex problems and address issues that surpass the scope of any one profession.
Kirschling assumes AACN presidency

Jane Kirschling, DNS, RN, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing, was elected to a two-year term as president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

An alumnus of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows program, Dr. Kirschling has served as dean and professor of the UK College of Nursing since 2006.

Pharmacy student appointed to ASHP Commission

Casey Combs, a third-year PharmD student from Honaker, Va., has been appointed as a student member for the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists’ (ASHP) Commission on Affiliate Relations.

The commission advises the Board of Directors on standards for affiliation, implementation of the standards, methods of strengthening affiliates, and methods of building affiliate relationships that help advance ASHP’s objectives.

Sent us recognition items

UK HealthCare supervisors are encouraged to submit job-related recognition items about employees for consideration on a space-available basis in Vital Signs. Send information and photos to: susan.dunlap@uky.edu.

Spotlight on three Clinical Nurse Excellence Winners

Casey Combs

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The Professional Development Council has named the Center for Advanced Surgery’s (CAS) Joy Yonts, RN, a clinical nurse excellence award winner for April.

A 1985 graduate of Berea College, Yonts started working at UK on 3 North after graduation. She transferred after a year to the OR and “I have loved every day,” she says. She worked for a year as a traveling nurse, taking her to Hawaii, Georgia and New Hampshire. Yonts returned to the UK OR and has been at CAS for four and one-half years. She is married to Mark Yonts, and they have “two great teenagers,” Rachel and Matthew. Yonts has volunteered for the past years as medical chaperone to the Lafayette High School Marching Band and looks forward to traveling with the band to Pasadena, Calif., for the Rose Bowl Parade in December.

Lori Klavoon, RN, has also been named a CAS clinical excellence award winner for April.

The pre-op/PACU employee has 26+ years of experience that’s taken her to all kinds of places, including a stint as a travel nurse working in ICU and pediatric ICU for six years; contract nursing for the U.S. Navy working on a research vessel; KODA, heart and lung transplant coordination; perioperative nursing as a pre-op, PACU, and circulating nurse; NICU nursing, where she gained 10 years of experience and received the Clinical Nurse Excellence Award, and interventional radiology nursing.

Within the last year, Klavoon has returned to perioperative services at the CAS. She is a BLS instructor, too. She’s earned multiple star awards from co-workers.

Amy Day, RN

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Amy Day, RN

Amy Day, RN, is being honored in April as Clinical Nurse Excellence Winner for UK Good Samaritan Hospital. She earned this honor by the review of her peers in Perioperative Services.

A registered nurse for almost 14 years, Day graduated from Midway College with an ADN in 1998. She recently completed all coursework for her BSN at Indiana Wesleyan College and will graduate April 28. She is studying for CAPA certification. She has been employed at Good Samaritan since February 2005 and has worked in the preoperative holding area/outpatient center for the past seven and one-half years.

Day has worked in a family practice office, in a med-surg unit and in a bariatric surgeon’s office. She enjoys baking and selling cakes. She lives in Georgetown with her eight-year-old daughter and a 13-year-old beagle/sheltie mix.

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Ahmad Kutkut, DDS, is author of two recently published articles. Placements are in the Journal of Periodontology and Laser Dentistry. Larry L. Cunningham Jr., DDS, MD, would surely receive it for “Limiting Resident Work Hours: The Case For the 80-Hour Work Week.” It will be published in May in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Cristina Perez, DDS, MS’s thesis has been accepted for publication in the Journal for Sleep and Breathing.

3 from College of Dentistry earn publishing credits

Bernard Boulanger, MD, FACS, associate chief medical officer, has an expanded role. He now serves as enterprise operations director for supply chain management, perioperative, endoscopy and interventional services and partners with Ann Smith, chief administrative officer, as physician executive for supply chain operations. He now serves as enterprise operations director for supply chain management, perioperative, endoscopy and interventional services and partners with Ann Smith, chief administrative officer, as physician executive at UK Good Samaritan Hospital.

Bonnie Brown, RN, has accepted the patient care manager position in Markey Cancer Center’s outpatient clinic. She has primary responsibility for chemotherapy infusion and collaborates with clinic managers. She has transitioned from a patient care manager role at UK Chandler 8E and Dialysis. She was a patient care manager for nearly five years. Additionally, Bonnie holds a wealth of knowledge about oncology, chemotherapy and outpatient services.

Jenny Dusso, MBA, joins UK HealthCare as director of ambulatory clinical operations for medicine and primary care services, coming from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where she served in ambulatory clinical operations. Dusso was operations director for the cardiovascular ambulatory practice as well as for the Transplant Center. She also developed the interdisciplinary Innovation Program focused on improving patient experiences in health care, and she led Mayo Clinic’s integrated medical record system during the transition to an electronic medical record. She earned a B.S. degree in management of information technology at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, and an MBA degree from Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Lisa Fryman, RN, BSN, has accepted the position of nursing director for Trauma and Acute Care Surgical Services. Lisa has been a member of the UK HealthCare family for many years, starting her career in the Neurosurgical ICU and most recently serving as nurse coordinator of the trauma program. Lisa earned an ADN from Lexington Community College, a BSN from the UK College of Nursing and is currently working on a doctorate of nursing practice, also from the UK College of Nursing.

Pam Branson, RN, MSN, has been named nursing director for the medicine pulmonary service line. She has been a member of the UK HealthCare family for many years, starting her career at UK in the Medical ICU and most recently, serving as a pulmonary and critical care clinical nurse specialist. Pam earned a BSN from Murray State University and an MSN from the UK College of Nursing. In 1985, Pam was the recipient of the prestigious M.J. Dickson Quality Nursing Care Award.

Lacey Troutman Buckler, RN, MSN, has a new role as nursing director for the cardiovascular service line. She began her career at UK in the Coronary Care ICU and until recently, served as inpatient cardiology acute care nurse practitioner, APRN supervisor and co-director, Office of Advanced Practice. Lacey earned both BSN and MSN degrees from the UK College of Nursing and is working on a doctorate of nursing practice, also from the UK College of Nursing. Lacey has been active in many local organizations and was the recipient of the American Red Cross Heroes Award in 2009. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau - Delta Psi chapter, Nursing’s National Honor Society.

Please welcome Kay Roberts, RN, to the Infection Prevention and Control team as an infection preventionist. She has over 23 years of experience at UK, most recently, in the Mother/ Baby unit. A native of Jessamine County, she studied nursing at Lexington Community College. She has a daughter and enjoys reading and spending time with her family.
Tim Couch commemorative benefits UK Gill Heart Institute

As Keeneland and Maker’s Mark embark on the 16th edition of its signature charitable bottle series to raise money for charity, the two have again teamed up to honor and support UK HealthCare. This year’s bottle celebrates UK football great Tim Couch, whose likeness is featured on the bottle this spring. Proceeds from the bottle sales will benefit the Gill Heart Institute at UK HealthCare.

“The most important thing about this bottle is that the proceeds from it will go to help my fellow Kentuckians fight and win the battle of heart disease, especially in Eastern Kentucky,” Couch said. “Winning this is very near and dear to my heart and more important than any football game. My father passed away from heart disease, and everyone has a family member that this terrible disease has affected.” Maker’s Mark will donate proceeds from the sales estimated to be about $200,000 from 20,000 bottles sold statewide to the Gill Heart Institute, which will utilize these funds to grow and develop high-quality clinical heart care services in rural Eastern Kentucky.

The 65 health care providers at the Gill Heart Institute saw an estimated 15,500 outpatients in 2011, including those seen in 51 monthly outreach clinics covering much of Eastern Kentucky.