UK among nation’s 100 Top Hospitals

UK Chandler Hospital has been named one of the nation's top 15 major academic medical centers according to Solucient's 2006 list of 100 Top Hospitals*: Benchmarks for Success. UK is the only hospital in Lexington and the only major academic medical center in Kentucky to be ranked.

Solucient has been identifying America's top performing hospitals since 1993 and is well-known among the health care industry. To determine this year's ranking, it compared statistical data on 3,000 hospitals across the country and chose 100 that demonstrated the highest performance in nine key measures including patient safety, financial performance, efficiency, growth in patient volume and clinical outcomes.

Achieving the Solucient ranking is not easy. Measures for the ranking change, usually each year, based on new and higher standards of care. To be ranked, a hospital must keep up with the new performance standards and develop new techniques to achieve better performance. Solucient estimates that if all Medicare inpatients received the same level of care as those in the 100 Top Hospitals winners:

- More than 100,000 additional patients would survive each year.
- More than 114,000 patient complications would be avoided annually.
- Expenses would decline by an aggregate $10.9 billion a year.
- The average patient stay would decrease by more than half a day.

In 2005, Solucient ranked UK HealthCare among its list of 100 Top Hospitals: Performance Improvement Leaders. This new ranking shows that UK HealthCare's efforts to improve have now placed it among the nation's leading academic health care institutions including University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

To learn more about 100 Top Hospitals, visit www.100tophospitals.com.

Initiatives contributing to UK’s high ranking by Solucient:

**Center for Enterprise Quality and Safety**, which is using focused actions to systematically monitor, analyze and improve the organization's processes and performance to increase quality and improve patient outcomes.

**Program for Quality, Safety & Patient Rights**, which brings an academic component to providing the highest quality, safest and most efficient health care by improving processes. Organizers say this program could lead to health care improvements across the nation.

**Rapid Response Team**, a team of critical care nurses who provide 24-hour coverage to all adult areas of the hospital to improve outcomes of high acuity patients and patients recently cared for in the intensive care unit.

**Capacity Command Center**, which streamlines the inpatient admitting process as hospital capacity peaks.

**Infection Control Team** to minimize risks from hazardous biological agents.

**Adherence to national patient safety goals and core measures of patient care** outlined by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

**UK Chandler Hospital nurses were the first in the region to be awarded Magnet status** by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The Magnet Hospital Recognition Program® identifies and recognizes excellence in nursing services and is the highest nursing honor a hospital can receive. In 2005, both UK Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children's Hospital were redesignated Magnet hospitals based on quality indicators and standards defined by the American Nurses Association.
Pharmacy building vision becoming reality

In 2005, the Kentucky General Assembly approved $40 million in first-phase funding to begin planning a new pharmacy building at UK. Legislators in 2006 appropriated the remainder of the requested $120 million. Since then, faculty, staff and students have been part of the planning process to construct a facility to meet the future needs of one of the premier pharmacy programs in the nation.

Groundbreaking for the new building will be held 1:30-2:30 p.m. Friday, April 13. Construction is expected to be completed in 2010.

Join Dr. Karpf for breakfast

The Breakfast with Dr. Karpf program gives employees an opportunity to interact with Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs, in a relaxed breakfast setting. To be considered for participation, complete the registration form available at ukhealthcare.uky.edu/forstaff/breakfast.htm. Up to 20 participants will be selected from all applicants to take part in the next breakfast. For more information on the program, contact Constance Trisler at 323-5126.

Fast Facts

- At 280,000 square feet, the new College of Pharmacy Building will be the largest academic building in Kentucky and among the largest in the nation.
- The five-story building will include state-of-the-art academic and research facilities for educating future pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, as well as providing laboratory space for faculty’s pharmaceutical and clinical research programs.
- The building will include two 235-seat auditoriums, a 110-seat classroom, a 54-seat classroom, a teaching laboratory with compounding lab and patient assessment rooms, four problem-based learning classrooms and study areas.
- The new College of Pharmacy building will include innovative research facilities created to foster collaboration among researchers in chemistry, biology and pharmaceutical lab areas.

New clinic opens to treat chronic dry mouth

Juan Yepes, DDS, MD, assistant professor in the Division of Oral Medicine’s Department of Oral Health, specializes in problems associated with dry mouth and has opened a public clinic to improve quality of life for patients. The clinic is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. For more information or to make an appointment, call 323-5500.

Dry mouth, also known as xerostomia, occurs when the salivary glands don’t work properly and is a common side effect of many medicines, including those for high blood pressure and depression. Long-lasting mouth dryness may also be the result of head and neck radiation treatments, chemotherapy, nerve damage, stress, or diseases such as diabetes, AIDS, Parkinson’s disease and Sjogren’s Syndrome, a disorder in which the person’s own immune system targets moisture-producing glands and causes dryness in the mouth and eyes. Left untreated, dry mouth can lead to serious health problems such as tooth decay, mouth sores, infection and difficulties chewing, speaking and swallowing.

Benefits Open Enrollment begins April

Open Enrollment for UK employee benefits runs Monday, April 16, through Friday, May 4, 2007. During this time, employees may make benefit changes for the upcoming plan year—July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. UK Benefits will send Open Enrollment information kits to employee home addresses.

What’s new for 2007-08?

Generics prescription co-insurance lowered

Members’ healthier lifestyle choices and use of cost-effective medications are making a difference. Prescription co-insurance rates have been reduced to 10 percent (from 20 percent) for a 90-day supply and 20 percent (from 30 percent) for a 30-day supply.

Expanded free life insurance coverage, plus added choices

For 2007-08, the university is increasing the level of free life insurance coverage it provides to regular, full-time employees from $10,000 to an amount equal to one time each employee’s annual salary. Also, employees may now purchase additional life insurance coverage up to five times salary (increased from a maximum of three times salary). This means that for employees who currently have only UK-provided $10,000 life insurance coverage and do not purchase optional coverage, the amount of their coverage will automatically increase to an amount equal to their annual salary.

Coverage will continue for employees who currently purchase optional coverage through UK unless they choose to submit an enrollment form to increase or decrease their level of coverage (1x, 2x, 3x, 4x or 5x salary).

New dental plan choices mean more provider and treatment choices

With new dental plan offerings through Delta Dental (as well as with existing offerings from UK Dental), employees will have more options than ever to meet their personal and/or family dental needs. Highlights include a Delta Dental orthodontia benefit.

Note: MetLife dental coverage ends June 30, 2007. Employees must fill out a new dental enrollment form to continue dental coverage under UK Dental or Delta Dental.

For more information

Benefits open houses give employees an opportunity to learn more about UK benefits, change plan coverage and submit benefits forms to Human Resources:

Monday, April 16

Kentucky Clinic, Third Floor, Wing D

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

North Lobby in Hospital (in front of Hospital Administration)

6:30 – 8:30 a.m., 10:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

Human Resources Satellite Office

321 Wethington Building

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 18

Service Building, Loading Dock

Noon – 3:30 p.m., 10 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 19

Service Building, Loading Dock

7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Tuesday, April 24

Main Administration Building,
Lexmark Public Room
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 26

Hospital/Medical Center, Room H133

10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, April 30

Kentucky Clinic, Hall of Fame/Big Blue Deli

6:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Wednesday, May 2

W. T. Young Library

Gallery Room

11 a.m. – Noon

Friday, May 4

Scovell Hall

Outside front lawn

(weather permitting)

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
PharmacistCARE improves the lives of patients

Although he retired from his job as director of UK Public Relations in 1997, Bernie Vonderheide, 75, hasn’t slowed down much in the past 10 years. But on a wintry January morning last year, his busy lifestyle came to a screeching halt when he awoke to a heart attack and was taken to the hospital.

A year later, Vonderheide has recovered and resumed his busy schedule as an advocate for nursing home reform in Kentucky. With help from his physician, UK cardiologist David Moliterno, MD, and clinical pharmacists with the PharmacistCARE cardiovascular program, he has made a few changes to keep him on the fast track.

“PharmacistCARE was a very pleasant discovery and when I run across a good program at UK, I can’t help but to brag about it to as many people as I can.”

– Bernie Vonderheide, former director, UK Public Relations

Terms like bad cholesterol, good cholesterol and trans fats are now part of his everyday life as he takes control of his health through the foods he eats, by exercising and by monitoring his blood pressure and cholesterol thanks to the lessons he learned through PharmacistCARE.

“I knew about good and bad cholesterol, but the classes have helped me really understand the technical information you need to know to have good health,” he says.

Vonderheide promoted UK’s accomplishments and success stories for 20 years. Today, he has the same

PharmacistCARE began offering medication management services to diabetes patients in 2002 and added the program for cardiovascular patients in fall 2006. The program provides medication therapy management services with individual consultations and group educational classes. As part of the service, pharmacists review all the patient’s medications and identify any drug therapy interactions or issues making sure medications are both safe and effective.

By reducing complications associated with uncontrolled diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol, PharmacistCARE also helps many patients decrease health care costs. Along with improving patients’ health, research outcomes from the PharmacistCARE program are being used to advance the vital role of pharmacists in medication therapy management and disease management.

PharmacistCARE is available as a free service to UK employees, retirees and their families and is now also available to patients not enrolled in UK health plans for a fee. For more information about PharmacistCARE services, visit www.mc.uky.edu/pharmacistcare or call 323-4742.

May

at-a-glance

Month-Long Observances
American Stroke Month (National)
www.strokeassociation.org
Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month (National)
www.aad.org
Trauma Awareness Month (National)
www.amtrauma.org

Week-Long Observances
6-12 Nurses Week (National)
www.nursingworld.org
13-19 Emergency Medical Services Week (National)
www.acep.org/emsweek

Recognition Days / Events
6 Nurses Day (National)
www.nursingworld.org
16 Employee Health and Fitness Day
www.physicalfitness.org
31 No Tobacco Day (World)
www.wntd.com

Celebrating Doctors
Physicians line up to enter a drawing for a chance to win a Charleston, S.C. vacation package during the Doctor’s Day 2007 celebration in the atrium of the Gill Heart Institute. This year’s event featured a buffet luncheon and promotional giveaways in a relaxing beach theme. National Doctor’s Day is observed March 30 each year to recognize the efforts of physicians throughout the country. Look for the winner of the vacation package to be announced in the next issue of Vital Signs.

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