

Peak Health

VOLUME III, JUNE 2015

Hepatitis C

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SUMMIT PACIFIC
• MEDICAL CENTER •

SPMC's Partnered with UW to Provide Advanced Treatment of Hepatitis C



Providers from different sites participating in the telemedicine conference.

Every Tuesday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Summit Pacific internal medicine providers participate in the University of Washington's (UW) hepatitis C telehealth conference along with approximately 25 other telemedicine participating sites, the closest one being in Aberdeen.

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes), as it is called, was started in Washington State in 2009 by University of Washington's John Scott, MD. The goal was to extend the treatment of Hepatitis C by having rural clinicians including physician assistants and nurse practitioners participate in telemedicine conferences. This innovative program supports clinicians who are serving in rural and underserved areas.

Every week providers present their cases to a team of specialists including a hepatologist, infectious disease specialist, psychiatrist, addiction medicine physician and a nurse practitioner with expertise in hepatology and end of life care. The participants at other sites and the UW specialists discuss the cases and make recommendations to rural providers.

SPMC's Angi Swinhart, RN, who works in internal medicine said, "This brings the cutting edge to rural areas rather than trying to get the patients to the big cities."

Treatment of patients with hepatitis C through Project ECHO is as safe and effective as in person care and is more cost-effective for patients than making the trip to a bigger city to go see a specialist. Patients receive specialized care without paying the high cost. Meanwhile, Summit Pacific providers are gaining knowledge by working through their own cases as well as the cases presented by other participating sites and can even receive educational credits for the time they spend in the program.

During the conferences, Dr. Scott asks providers from the various sites if they would like to give their input before he and the other specialists provide their treatment plan. By doing this he is testing their knowledge and letting them give the first recommendations, he then agrees with them or disagrees and he and his team thoroughly explains why.

"It's been a good process to educate us; it connects us with people with premier knowledge of hepatitis C in Washington. Those people are also connected with insurers and the state so that helps us too," said SPMC internal medicine doctor, Dr. Paul Bunge, MD.

Project ECHO is a great learning experience for even the most seasoned providers because it is so integrative. Providers can listen to the considerations from other professionals in fields such as addiction and psychiatry and how different aspects of patients' lives can affect their health, and consequently, how they are cared for.

Summit Pacific has been participating in Project ECHO for a year and doesn't see an end to the partnership coming any time soon. Since then, five staff members, ranging from doctors to nurses, have been involved in the weekly conferences.

Project ECHO has made an impact on local patients with hepatitis C in our community. Since SPMC joined the telemedicine conferences, they have been able to get people treated with medicine that can cure HVC. "We've had three cures so far, and two more people currently taking the medicine," said Swinhart.

Dr. Bunge added, "This works well because it takes some of that knowledge and capability that is typically centered in bigger cities at large medical centers and trains people out in small towns so that they can be effective. Seeing so few patients, you wouldn't be good at this, but if you can do it in conjunction with some help then you can be. This model really works and I hope they can do it for other things," added Dr. Bunge.

8th Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament a Sunny Success



Employee volunteers on the course

Summit Pacific Medical Foundation's annual Celebrity Golf Tournament has commenced! More than 25 teams competed for first place which went to the self-named "Commission Senior Team." However, the real winners are all members of the community who will benefit from Summit Pacific Medical Foundation's Greatest Need Fund.

Summit Pacific Medical Foundation would like to extend a warm and sincere thank-you to all who participated, volunteered and sponsored this successful event. This

year's funds will go towards the construction of a health and wellness walking trail on Summit Pacific Medical Center's campus. The trail will be four feet wide, 1/3 of a mile in length and will feature two outdoor seating areas, a view of the falls and several guided fitness stations.

Awards were given out to four other teams. Second and third went to "Levee Lumber" and WatchGuard. The "Misfit Mulligans" received an award for last place and the Best Dressed Award went to "Prestige Worldwide" for their lumberjack inspired attire consisting of Stihl hats and cutoff hickory shirts.

Summit Pacific Medical Foundation would like to thank all of the businesses, individuals and employees who volunteered or donated their goods, services and time to help make this event so successful. Your support is so greatly appreciated! Mark your calendar, next year's tournament is scheduled for Friday May 6, 2016!



Renae Jensen and Brad Goode Announcing Awards



1st place went to the Commission Senior team



Celebrity Courtney Coleman rolls the dice with Cannon Solutions America team.

Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors!

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Sip & Sail Gala Returns to Alderbrook September 19th

This formal event kicks off with a sunset cruise and include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a waterside gourmet dinner, live entertainment and special room rates! Support Summit Pacific by attending the Sip and Sail Gala September 19th!

To be included on the invitation mailing list, please contact Lauren Day by calling 360-346-2250 or by emailing LaurenD@sp-mc.org.

Urgent Care Clinic Extended Hours

In May, our Urgent Care Clinic began operating under extended hours to better serve you! Summit Pacific Medical Center has the only Urgent Care Clinic in Grays Harbor County and we realize the need for walk in care is high. Summit Pacific Urgent Care Clinic operates out of Summit Pacific's Procedure Suite and is now open 4 days

a week, Friday through Monday! Patients should enter and check in for urgent care services through the main Summit Pacific entrance (not the Emergency Department entrance). Be sure to visit our website, www.sp-mc.org for updated hours of Urgent Care Services!



SPMC's chef, Brandon Smith chopping veggies during a cooking demonstration.



The colorful stir-fry served at the Community Education Dinner in March.



Pharmacist Andrew Burton talks to the community about managing their medications.

Upcoming Events

June 26th

Dementia, Cyndi Gibson

July 24th

Designer Drugs, Dr. William Hurley

August 28th

TIA's (Mini Strokes), Fawn Ross, ARNP

September 25th

Blood Thinners, Andrew Burton, Pharm.D.

FREE Community Education Dinners 4th Friday of the Month!

Our Community Education Dinners are free and open to the public. No RSVP required, just walk in and have a seat! Our Executive Chef, Brandon Smith does a cooking demonstration of the meal he has catered for the night. After the demonstration, we invite you to eat and then we welcome our guest speaker! Dates, topics and speakers are subject to change. Make sure to check our website, www.summitpacificmedicalcenter.org, frequently to stay up to date on any changes or updates.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Brenda West

Congratulations to Brenda West, Chief Clinical Officer & Quality Director at SPMC for successfully fulfilling the extensive requirements and receiving her Nurse Executive Advanced-Board Certification!



Tammy Davis

Congratulations to two of Summit Pacific's Nurse Practitioners who both went back to school, while continuing to see patients full time at SPMC, to complete challenging doctorate programs.

They both have recently graduated and received their Doctor in Nursing Practice degrees: Tammy Davis, ARNP, DNP and Mary Ellen Biggerstaff, ARNP, DNP.

Mary Ellen Biggerstaff



Summit Pacific Improving Patient Care with On-Demand Interpreters

Imagine you go into a hospital with an ailment of some kind. You don't speak the same language that everyone else does and you are scared. You wonder, "What is wrong with me? Will I be okay? What kind of treatment will I be receiving?"

In order to provide the best care it is important for all healthcare facilities, large and small, to have a language interpretation strategy. Summit Pacific Medical Center (SPMC) is now able to connect patients with a live interpreter via video conferencing.

"By using a video interpreter they ensure patients and clinicians understand each other fully," said Miller, who also shared, "With InDemand Interpreters it gives us fast access to highly trained medical interpreters within seconds at the touch of a button. They are available 24/7/365."



An interpreter translating in American Sign Language during training.



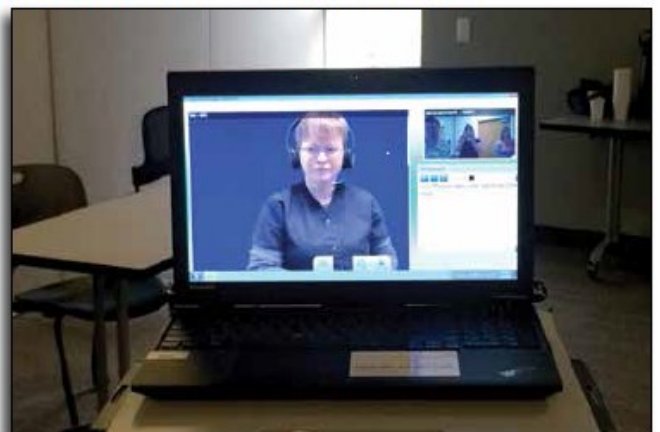
SPMC employees going through interpreter training.

knowledge is something that everyone needs. Other ways of providing interpreter services are over the phone or by in person visits. These methods both lack something. You lose all non-verbal communication when only using audio to communicate. And the availability of an in-person interpreter may not always be when they are most needed.

InDemand Interpreting allows patients to choose the gender of the interpreter, conference up to six different languages in one session, is equipped with a privacy curtain that can either block the interpreter or the patient view and includes 17 popular languages: Amharic, Arabic, American Sign Language, Burmese, Cambodian, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Polish, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya and Vietnamese.

Kathy Miller, Clinic Manager at Elma Family Medicine said, "Patients who do not speak English or who are LEP (limited English proficiency) have difficulty participating in their own health care. They have difficulty understanding information from their provider and the language barrier can negatively impact patient-provider communication."

It is SPMC's mission to passionately provide essential healthcare to all individuals of our community with an emphasis on quality, access and compassion. Access to



The view patients will have while interacting with interpreters.



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