Hospital continues H1N1 precautions

Visitation limited to 18 and older

During this year’s flu season, The University of Kansas Hospital is limiting visitation to people 18 and older. Those adults who are healthy and free of flu symptoms can visit admitted patients. Children will not be allowed in inpatient areas.

Signs announcing the temporary policy will be posted at the main entrance and on inpatient floors. Patients also will receive a letter about the policy before they are admitted.

“We believe this step is necessary to protect our patients and visitors,” said Shawn Mueller, RN, manager, Infection Prevention.

For information: Mueller, 5-5051

High-tech prosthetic is a first for hospital

The University of Kansas Hospital is helping lead a revolution in new-age prosthetics.

Following a 12-hour surgery Nov. 3, a patient with bone cancer is in line to be fitted with a mechanical left arm that will be triggered by his own nerves. The nerves were relocated from his damaged arm and shoulder, which had to be amputated, to his chest and back.

The new prosthetic represents a Star Wars-like leap forward. Standard prosthetics are stimulated by mechanical movements of other muscles. The new procedure allows electrodes in the mechanical arm to be matched with the six nerves that were saved during surgery.

With the new high-tech prosthetic, the patient, a 19-year-old man from southwest Missouri, will be able to use his thoughts to move the arm, rotate his hand, close his fingers and bend his elbow – much as if it were his own arm.

“It will be far more intuitive,” said Kim Templeton, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, who led the surgical team.

Survey leads to palliative care nurse outreach

A survey about palliative care has set the stage for a new educational outreach to nurses at The University of Kansas Hospital.

Conducted by the hospital’s Palliative Care team, the survey of about 200 of the hospital’s nurses revealed the areas of palliative care they find most challenging. Many reported they would welcome extra support when caring for patients in palliative care.

In response, the Palliative Care team, comprised of hospital specialists who assist patients, families and providers in delivering palliative care, is developing a series of reference manuals.

Team member Sara Fohn, RN, clinical nurse coordinator who spearheaded the survey, said the manuals will serve as a condensed resource for caregivers. They’ll offer guidelines to nurses for assisting family members, address specifics of symptom management and offer a review of the Palliative Care Team’s services and other resources available at the hospital.

Where appropriate, the manuals will offer
Thanks to the generosity of employees at The University of Kansas Hospital, the United Way received $122,087 in contributions during the current campaign. The total exceeded not only the hospital’s goal of $100,000, but also its “stretch goal” of $110,000. This is the fourth consecutive year the hospital topped its campaign goal. Last year hospital staff donated $111,915.

Individual employee contributions increased as well, averaging $26.54 per employee this year versus $25.42 last year. The hospital is consistently one of the top local United Way campaign contributors.

“We see our friends and neighbors hurting, and agencies are overwhelmed with calls for assistance every day. The extraordinary generosity of hospital staff this year will go a long way to relieve the need,” said Brandi Fisher, a local United Way representative.

The campaign included a new electronic pledge offering, which more than 90 percent of employees used to make their contributions. Online pledges help the United Way curb administrative expenses, allowing more dollars to flow into the community for needed services.

Dorothy Gunderson, Organizational Improvement, and Lisa Ward, Human Resources, co-chaired the hospital’s campaign with the help of Jane Gonzalez and Ty Baker, Human Resources; Tammy Shepherd, Medical Administrative Services; and more than 50 dedicated unit and departmental ambassadors.

Visit 24/7 for a list of units/departments that achieved their goal of 50 percent or better.
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along with Bruce Toby, MD, Orthopedic Surgery chairman. “We hope this will make his arm function faster and more naturally.”

The procedure has been performed 36 times around the world, with nearly all those involving military patients suffering trauma injuries. This is the first time it was performed on a patient with cancer.

It’s also the first such procedure done on an amputation this high on the arm. Toby had to move muscles from the amputated arm to provide enough muscles into which the salvaged nerves were implanted.

The Nov. 3 surgery was a key step for the patient. In about six months, once the rerouted nerves have matured and become functional, he’ll be fitted with the high-tech prosthetic by reps from Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla., which developed it.

It may be six months after that before Templeton and her team know how much functionality the patient will have. While the young man’s battle with cancer remains the top priority, “his new arm should give him a higher quality of life than ever before possible,” Templeton said.

Deadline near for enrollment, health screening

Tuesday, Nov. 24, is the final day for The University of Kansas Hospital employees to make changes to their 2010 benefits.

If you don’t enroll by 11 p.m. on Nov. 24, your current benefits will continue through 2010. To enroll, log on to www.bluesenroll.com 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you want to participate in the Flexible Spending Account in 2010, you must re-enroll.

Also, you can receive $240 savings on your 2010 medical plan premiums if you participate in a free biometric health screening and complete a health risk appraisal. This year’s screening also lays the foundation for an additional $480 savings in 2011.

The final day for those screenings and assessment also is Nov. 24. Walk-ins are welcome for the final health screenings, all in Bell B311:

- Nov. 20, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Nov. 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Information: Human Resources, 5-5231.

KUMC tuition assistance deadline approaches

Dec. 14 is the deadline for Kansas state employees to apply for tuition assistance for the spring 2010 semester. The University of Kansas Medical Center, like other state agencies, is authorized to provide tuition assistance to full-time state employees who meet the program’s eligibility requirements.

Visit www2.kumc.edu/hr/learninganddevelopment/tuition.html for information or to print an application. Return completed application to University Benefits Office, 1044 Delp, Mailstop 2022.

Information: Janet Claas, 8-5263

Blood: A great gift idea for the holidays

The Community Blood Center returns Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Westwood Campus Multipurpose Room. It’s the last chance to give the gift of life through the hospital this year. Register at www.savelifeforw. Information: Lisa Ward, 8-4416.
For Sale

WOMEN’S NIKE replica shoes, new, great quality, half cost of regular Nike. 816-699-1218.

DINING TABLE, octagon, 4 chairs; hanging picture; photos, $50, you pick up. 913-486-3043.

ACID REFLUX baby pillow, 20” square, tilts at 30-degree, adjustable harness, gently used, paid $75, asking $35. 305-401-8892.

BRITAX COMPANION car seat, plum color, height-adjustable base, side impact protection, 5-point harness, gently used 5 months, paid $190, asking $65. 305-401-8892.

MEN’S CLOTHING: multiple gray wool dress coat, suit jackets. 816-452-5903.

FURNITURE: love seat, $50; couch, $50; chair, $25 (all white cloth with pillows, need cleaning); foot stool, $25; mattress, $25; TV stand, $5; kitchen appliances. 913-653-9855.

FISHER-PRICE MEDICAL kit, new (in box), sturdy case, working stethoscope, 5 medical instruments, ages 3 and up, $9. 816-363-8696.

SLAM MAN ELECTRONIC aerobic boxing partner, never used, stored in home, includes instructional video, accessories, set of 4 AA batteries, $90. 816-616-0896.

LIMMER HIKING boots, women size 8, pristine shape, paid $260, asking $100. 816-616-0896.

SNOWBOARD & BOOTS, great beginning board, $60; women’s Vans size 7.5 boots (usually wear an 8, but these fit well), $60; buy together for $100. 816-616-0896.

CHERRY TODDLER bed with Serta crib mattress, plus bedding set with pastel flowers/butterflies, 3 months old, $125. 913-206-6394.

HP PDA, good cond., barely used, plastic screen cover, charger, pocket holder. 620-875-1398.

WARDROBE/ARMOIRE, handmade, oak finish, shelves, shoe rack and long hang area, photos, $175. 913-424-8411.

HONEY OAK cottage-style dining table, 6 chairs, leaf, comfortably seats 8, A-America brand, photos, $500 OBO. 816-377-8638.

TODDLER TRIKES: Radio Flyer Fold-2-Go, $25; Schwinn Roadster, red/black, $40; Kettler Twin Navigator with push bar, seat belts, $100. 913-530-0220.

ASHLEY COUCH and love seat, beautiful, excellent cond., neutral earth tones, 9 matching pillows, photos, $525 OBO cash. 310-591-9940.

HP 1020 LASER JET printer, power cord, 1 unopened 12A black cartridge, gently used, $60 OBO. 913-579-5499.

Housing

For Sale

PRAIRIE VILLAGE home, 3 BR, 2 BA, master suite, move-in cond., 6816 El Monte, walk to elementary school and Prairie Village shops, $239,000. 913-722-5882.

HOME, 2 BR, 1 BA, remodeled kitchen, new roof/guttering, remodeled bath, Jacuzzi, hardwoods, 1-car detached garage, full basement, fenced yard, kitchen appliances, Paola, Kan., $105,000. 913-731-5440.

RANCH-STYLE HOME on large fenced lot, 3 BR, 1 BA, quiet neighborhood, 20 minutes from KUMC, 2-car garage, full basement, $119,000. 913-302-2996.

For Rent

BEAUTIFUL HOME near KUMC, 2 BR, 1 BA, family/living/dining rooms, fenced yard, quiet location, washer/dryer, refrigerator, available now, pets allowed, $850/month, utilities reasonable. 913-685-3777.

NEWLY REMODELED home, 2 BR, large yard, no pets, Bannister Rd./71 Hwy., $600/month. 816-718-8444.

JOHNSON COUNTY home, 2 BR, 1 BA, hardwoods, updated kitchen, 5439 Woodson Rd., Mission, 12 minutes from KUMC, low utility bills, $825/month. 913-262-0023.

Pets

BLACK & WHITE kitten, male, 4 or 5 months old, pretty, affectionate. 913-961-4901.

Wanted

OLD-FASHIONED gas ceramic grate-type heater with all grates in good cond., usually found in older homes with fireplaces. 816-668-7981.

2 BON JOVI tickets for March 2010 concert at Sprint Center, good seats, reasonably priced. 305-401-8892.

INSTALLATION DISK for Lexmark Z45 printer, will return after installing printer. 913-945-5278.

2 KU BASKETBALL tickets for Dec. 19 game. 816-803-1039.

eXceptional

Carol Lindsley, MD, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Rheumatology during the ACR Annual Scientific Meeting Oct. 16-21 in Philadelphia.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to an ACR (American College of Rheumatology) member for outstanding and sustained service to the ACR. Lindsley was one of only 10 recipients of this prestigious award.

Lindsley is professor of Pediatrics, chief of Pediatric Rheumatology, and director of the Mid-America Pediatric Arthritis Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She’s also a member of the board of directors of the American College of Rheumatology and chair of the Pediatric Section.

The ACR is an organization of and for physicians, health professionals, and scientists that advances rheumatology care through education, research, advocacy and practice support. The programs foster excellence in the care of people with or at risk for arthritis and rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

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