



Peace of mind for your healthcare needs.

CORNERSTONE NEWS



Winter Issue:

A Note from the President

- Getting the Word Out

News, Updates, and Stories

- Therapy Coverage Act of 2009
- Website about Plasma Donations
- Tetrizzini With Chicken
- Lifetime CAPS
- Hafa Adai!
- Tucker's Story
- In Loving Memory of Renee
- Mark your Calendars

Cornerstone News

1

Winter 2009

help gather the tools needed to succeed. We have been informed that the Representatives on Capital Hill need to hear patient stories demonstrating the very real hardships facing Medicare patients; they need to put a human face on the problems created by the lack of meaningful Medicare home infusion reimbursement coverage. Congressional Representatives have expressed the desire to learn about real life situations, it is imperative for us to bring our story to life through patient stories.

We truly need to make every effort to address this significant flaw in Medicare coverage! Medicare patients must receive

the treatments they deserve, while providers receive the reimbursement needed to offer quality care.

Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Coverage Act of 2009

Reference: National Home Infusion Association

During the second week of the 111th Congress, reintroduction of this vital legislation into both houses at the same time is a major achievement. The Medicare home infusion therapy coverage act of 2009 was introduced concurrently in the Senate (S.254) by Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and in the House (H.R. 574) by Representatives Elliot Engel (D-NY) and Timothy Murphy (R-PA).

Disparities in Medicare coverage affect home infusion therapy. Some people under the Medicare Part D drug plan do not have access to home infusion therapy because the program excludes many of the costs for pharmacy services. A report commissioned by the NHIA shows that the government could save about \$7.4 billion if Medicare is allowed to pay for home infusion rather than alternative costly hospital stays for therapy.

Everyone reading this article is urged to take action now to

Website about Plasma Donations

Reference: PPTA

The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) has announced a new website to boost awareness and understanding of plasma donation. Information is provided about how plasma is used and locations of source plasma collection centers. Plasma donors looking for information about eligibility will find this a useful resource.

Take a look at the PPTA site www.donatingplasma.org a website dedicated to raising awareness and providing information about source plasma and how it is used to produce therapies that save and improve lives. Debunking myths associated with plasma donation and providing testimonials on the importance of plasma is shared by patients, donors and physicians.

CORNERSTONE NEWS

Cornerstone News

2

Winter 2009



Getting the word out...

By David S. Espinosa
President, NCHS

The past year was one of change for many businesses. Some weathered the changing climate well, while others struggled. At National Cornerstone Healthcare Services we moved forward with hope, determination and commitment, continuing to get the message out that our mission to serve remains strong. That effort and the many other marketing responsibilities at NCHS are largely coordinated by Barbara Chang, our director of marketing, and we're pleased to officially introduce her to our growing family.

A New Jersey native, Barbara has been involved with the pharmaceutical industry for many years. While we've known of her for some time, she came to our attention in a big way two years ago. We were looking to increase the NCHS profile, and Barbara's record of marketing with other companies stood out. We invited her to join NCHS in February 2007.

"My 'public' job is to help make a consistent showing of who and what we are, conveying to people that we have knowledge, that we care, and that we support the community," she said. "Behind the scenes, my job is to support everyone at NCHS, providing many of the tools they need to make the company successful."

Barbara's day-to-day responsibilities include publishing the NCHS newsletter, Cornerstone News, developing a variety of promotional materials, and planning various company events—key functions that serve to carry our message to the chronic care community and to our employees as well. Lately, Barbara's responsibilities have broadened. She travels extensively to promote the company and has teamed up with an associate, Donna Gallegos, who helps her plan events. In just a short time, Barbara's tenure has been just what we—and she—envisioned.

"I really enjoy working with people and being able to help them," she said. "The end result of what I do, no matter how small my role, is that individuals and families benefit. In our business it's very important that there's advocacy on behalf of the patient base to promote access to care and choice. At some level I contribute in each of those areas."

Thanks to Barbara, everyone is more knowledgeable. Certainly, the relationship has been a good fit.

"We're like family here," she said. "I come to the office every day and see dedicated people who are friends—not just co-workers. I like that."

Barbara is married and has a grown son. Aside from her family and church, an important focal point remains...NCHS!

"I love coming to work every day," she said.

Tetrazzini With Chicken

by Tami Velazquez

Ingredients:

- 1 (16 ounce) package of vermicelli (noodles)
- ½ cup of chicken broth
- 4 cups of chopped cooked chicken breast
- 1 (10 ¾ ounce) can of cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10 ¾ ounce) can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 (10 ¾ ounce) can of cream of celery soup
- 1 (8 ounce) container of sour cream
- 1 (6 ounce) jar of drained sliced mushrooms (or fresh if preferred)
- ½ cup (2 ounces) of parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon of pepper
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese

Preparation:

Prepare vermicelli according to package directions: drain. Return to pot, and toss with chicken broth. Stir together chopped cooked chicken and next 8 ingredients in a large bowl; add vermicelli, and toss well. Spoon mixture into 2 lightly greased 11 x 7 inch baking dishes. Sprinkle evenly with cheddar cheese. Bake, covered at 350 for 30 minutes, uncover and bake 5 more minutes or until cheese is melted and bubbly.

Note:

Freeze unbaked casserole up to 1 month, if desired. Thaw casserole overnight in refrigerator. Let stand 30 minutes at room temperature, then bake as directed.

Lifetime CAPS

Legislation Introduced to Increase Lifetime Caps

The Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act was introduced on February 13, 2009. The senate bill was introduced by Senators Bryon Dorgan (D-ND) and Olympia Snow (R-ME). The House bill was introduced by Representatives Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA), Jim Langevin (D-RI), Betty Sutton (R-OH), Dale Kildee (D-MI) and Jason Altmire (D-PA).

Everyone at National Cornerstone Healthcare Services (NCHS) appreciates the leadership of the sponsors and co-sponsors on this very important issue. We also are thankful for all of the efforts taken by our national organizations: the National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF) and the Hemophilia Federation of America (HFA). We encourage our readers to visit the websites listed below.

The Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act (S.442 and H.R.1085) will raise the minimum level of lifetime caps to \$5 million for the first two years and \$10 million in years three and four. Annual adjustments to lifetime caps will be raised in subsequent years based on consumer price index.

As we are well aware, individuals with chronic illnesses can reach their lifetime cap within a few years. Increasing the cap will result in a net savings for federal and state governments because individuals with high medical costs can maintain private health insurance.

It is imperative that we continue to gain support for an increase in lifetime insurance caps placed on private health insurance plans. TAKE ACTION NOW to gain sponsors and ensure increasing lifetime caps becomes a priority on the 2009 legislative agenda!

Please visit www.hemophiliafed.org (visit Advocacy) and www.hemophilia.org or contact your legislative representatives.

Hafa Adai!

Barbara Chang

In America they say "how are you" on Guam everyone extends a warm welcome and says Hafa Adai. This is my first and lasting friendly impression of the island of Guam.



You may not be aware that Judith Baker has led the special efforts of Region IX to assist and encourage standards of care for our bleeding disorders blood brothers and sisters all the way to the pacific island of Guam. Last October, in

conjunction with the Federal Hemophilia Treatment Center/Region IX, the Department of Public Health and Social Services of Guam put together a Medical Symposium. This year marked a ten year celebration of accomplishments. NCHS, Caremark and Baxter were contributing sponsors of the event. Along with Ms. Baker, Robert Miller of Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles was also a guest speaker.

My personal impressions of the island can be summed up in three thoughts:

there's lots of fun on Guam, there are many beautiful places to visit and there is scenery you would not believe. Even more importantly to me was the total sense of friendliness. From the moment I got off the plane and was greeted with a special shell lei, I knew this was a wonderful place. I had the pleasure of meeting with many individuals and families of those with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. It was my privilege to hear stories of their trials, tribulations and successes within the last ten years. It was a joy to see many photographs which chronicled their lives and showed how the young boys have grown and now have their own families. Throughout all of the years there is always one constant – a big SMILE.

Tucker's Story

An excerpt reprinted with permission from: The Pulse, a Newsletter published by the Tennessee Hemophilia & Bleeding Disorders Foundation

Daniel Tucker Williams was born to a single mom, Christy Bradley, on September 12, 1991, weighing 9.4 lbs! He was named after Daniel in the Bible and Tucker from a Louis Lamour cowboy.

At seven months of age he was tested and shown to have Factor VIII deficiency – severe hemophilia. Before he could walk his nickname was Johnny OneNote. In his wind-up baby swing he would sing one note through his pacifier while swinging. His first grade teacher suggested singing lessons because



CORNERSTONE NEWS

he was coming in to her class singing Old Man River which he learned from a TV commercial.

Tucker attended Overton High School for the Performing Arts for tenth and eleventh grade. Tucker has performed with the Chamber Choir at the Peabody, the Ronald McDonald House, Memphis in May, Lambuth College and many more places. He has sung for three years at fundraisers for the Dream Factory; they grant wishes for children with chronic illnesses or handicaps. In addition, he has sung at many area churches.

In 2006, Julie Freeman became Tucker's voice teacher. Early on, he knew opera was where his talents lied. He wants to become the next Luciano Pavarotti. Ms. Freeman is an operatic soprano who lives and teaches in Memphis. She is making this appeal:



Tucker Williams has been my voice student for the past two years. His hemophilia was diagnosed in his first year of life and it appears to be very well managed. Tucker is quite possibly THE most promising talent with whom I have ever worked, and that's saying something, as I have trained many adult singers who have won

regional and national competitions. He has more passion and dedication to music than I have ever seen, and he possesses the most even temperament in performance of any singer I have ever known.

He has a powerful tenor voice (rare) which is also astonishingly beautiful (even rarer). This is the kind of instrument that could actually become a truly significant and famous voice.

Tucker attended Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan this summer on scholarship, chosen to be one of only 30 students selected for Vocal Soloists program among over 1,000 applicants worldwide. The school selected him to attend for the whole school year, to complete his senior year of high school at Interlochen. They offered him a phenomenal \$26,000 in scholarship money but the tuition for this final year is almost \$41,000.

Donations should be made to the Beethoven Club, with a note on the check to be designated for Tucker Williams. The cancelled check will be the receipt for those wishing to make a personal tax-deductible donation. The address is:

The Beethoven Club c/o Dorothy Sue Smith, Treasurer, 263 South McLean, Memphis, TN 38104

I dearly hope you will consider making a donation to help this deserving young man.

We are pleased to mention, Louise Hardaway of Factor4Life has generously donated \$500.

CORNERSTONE NEWS

Cornerstone News

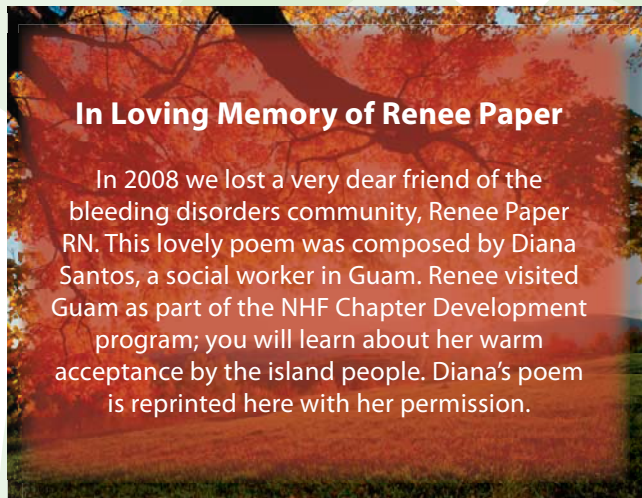
4

Winter 2009

In Loving Memory of Renee, "Haga Chelu"

Guam's Tribute to Renee Paper

Composed by Diana M.I. Santos-- March 22, 2008



In Loving Memory of Renee Paper

In 2008 we lost a very dear friend of the bleeding disorders community, Renee Paper RN. This lovely poem was composed by Diana Santos, a social worker in Guam. Renee visited Guam as part of the NHF Chapter Development program; you will learn about her warm acceptance by the island people. Diana's poem is reprinted here with her permission.

Renee, a Nevada Nurse, came to Guam in 1996 to aid the bleeding disorder community. The knowledge, skills, and guidance she imparted affected Hemophilia care significantly. Renee greeted the Guam Care Team at the Airport with a wide beaming smile. This communicated that her trip to Guam was already worth the while. Renee's educational conferences around Guam always filled each room to capacity. She took the audience by storm and delivered her words like sheer electricity. Renee's presentations provided much needed answers to questions about Hemophilia care. Now health care professionals felt less apprehensive and had more knowledge to share. Renee instantly bonded with the patients like magnet and steel. This happened naturally because of the way she made them feel. Renee established a strong rapport with the consumers and their families. They felt she genuinely cared as she taught to prevent bleeding calamities. Renee networked well with the Medical Social Services staff and other community players. She equipped, empowered, and enriched all our lives in so many layers. Renee helped bring to fruition Guam's very first Hemophilia Summer Camp. Her invaluable contributions have recognized her as "Pioneer Champ." Renee was a model camper even when her comfort level was tested. She managed to endure a post-typhoon situation looking

completely rested. Renee was also influential with establishing the Hemophilia Foundation of Guam. This led to a board dedicated to addressing the needs of consumers for years to come. Renee aggressively made health insurance providers comprehend the impacts of a congenital bleeding disorder. This was so that patients and their families could live their lives in functioning order. Renee had this "Let's Do it" attitude when it came to making things better. This was one of her many professional traits that made her even greater. Renee was bestowed the "Ancient Order of the Chamori" Award for being highly distinguished. The people of Guam couldn't let this acknowledgment go by without her being noticed. Renee was such a fun-loving person in and out of the sun. Her laughter sounded like she was always having fun. Renee tasted Guam's foods without a trace of fear. She managed to gulp it down with a bottle of beer. Renee snorkeled around Guam's best spots and was quite a good swimmer. She treasured the times spent on Guam with experiences that made her smiles shimmer. Renee took gorgeous photos of Guam featuring ocean waves and beaches that were sandy. And met a Social Worker who became tour guide and great friend and goes by the name of "Brandy." Renee was suitably named, "Haga' Chelu", meaning Blood Sister in Chamorro. This title will lovingly belong to her yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Renee was certainly one of those few people to have reached their full potential. She had served and lived a full and purposeful life that was never uneventful. Renee will always remain in the hearts and thoughts of those whose lives she's touched. For all that she was and all that she gave, she will be missed so terribly much.

Hemophilia Federation of America

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

HFA 2009 Educational Symposium • Indianapolis, IN



Mark your Calendars

The Hemophilia Federation of America (HFA) will host the 2009 Annual Educational Symposium in Indianapolis MARCH 12-14. The hotel and meeting location will be the Marriott East Indianapolis, Indiana. Plan to stop at the NCHS exhibit booth, meet new and old friends and gather some educational information.

You may register for the meeting online by going to www.hemophiliafed.org. There will be special programs for children and teens (ages 13-18). Limited scholarships are also available. Check online or call the HFA office 800-230-9797.

Join NCHS – THE WINNING TEAM - for three days of programs, workshops, networking and fun social activities. There is something for everyone! See you in Indy at the NCHS booth!

Visit us at www.nc-hs.com