A new addition
Transplant Coordinator Alice Jones had a beautiful baby girl on Oct. 11. Her name is Raegan Alyse Jones, and she weighed a healthy 7 pounds 15 ounces. We all went to visit her when she was a week old, and she was the sweetest, cuddliest baby we had ever seen! She did not utter one cry the entire time we were there. We all took turns holding her and remembering that sweet baby smell from when our own children were newborns.

Condolences
We appreciated the many cards we received after Shari Huffman’s untimely death on Aug. 6. It is difficult for all of us to find words to describe the empty space she left behind. When a person has been here 18 years they have seen lots of patients come and go, and she had a photographic memory of patients and their problems. We miss her terribly. There will be a bronze plaque made with her image and a few words about her dedication to the transplant program. A dedication ceremony will be held when the plaque is ready.

New assignments
Our acting nurse manager is now Lorie Lipscomb, RN, MSN, FNP. Lorie received her Master’s degree in nursing in May from WVU and is now a board certified family nurse practitioner. The pre-transplant coordinators are Susan Hanna, RN, and Alice Jones, RN. Susan came to us from the CAMC General dialysis unit.

Our post-transplant coordinators are Julie Williams and Christine Roush. Julie left us for a while to try out a new job, but came back after seven months when she discovered how much she missed working directly with patients. We are all delighted that she came back, and at about the same time we lost Shari. It was good to have an experienced person come back to the team. Christine also came about the same time. She was a critical care nurse in surgical ICU at CAMC Memorial. Christine brings many years of hospital experience to transplant, and we hope you like her as much as we do. Christine grew up in Middleport/ Pomeroy, OH, and now lives with her husband and two children in Mason County.

The timeframe for a new transplant coordinator to learn all of our patients is quite lengthy, so please be patient while Susan and Christine learn your names and health issues. We now follow about 400 people post transplant.

Insurance and pre-transplant
For all pre-transplant patients, we expect when your turn finally comes to be transplanted that you have all of the necessary insurance you will need. Some patients have dropped OR never enrolled in a Part D plan because they did not feel it was worth the expense. Just because all of the drugs were on the $4 list at Wal-Mart, K-Mart or Rite-Aid, they did not want the added expense of Part D. But there is a penalty for NOT signing up when you are eligible (except if you have comparable plan): it is 10% per year you were eligible and did not sign up. Moreover, when you ARE transplanted and do not have a Part D in place, you could have some serious trouble because there will be lots of new drugs. Not having Part D could potentially result in a huge out of pocket cost to you. It is especially helpful to have a low income subsidy if you are eligible.

It’s that time of year again
It is time to switch your Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage Plan. Enrollment runs through Dec. 7, 2011 and becomes effective Jan. 1, 2012. It is very worthwhile to apply for Extra Help with Part D because there is NO deductable and NO donut hole, and the most you pay for a brand name drug is about $6. If you are wondering if you qualify, simply call 1-800-772-1213.

For a married couple, your assets cannot exceed $25,260. If single, $12,640 is the limit. You do not need to count your home, vehicles, personal possessions, burial plots and burial contracts or back payments to Social Security. The WV State Health Insurance Assistance Program number is 877-987-4463. They know more about what programs are available in the various counties for the Medicare Advantage Plans. Your local senior center may also be able to help. Some former employers assign Medicare Advantage Plans. The state of West Virginia has a Humana plan and Dow Chemical has an Aetna Plan that are part of their retirement packages.
**CAMC receives Governor’s Award for Life for organ donation initiatives**

CAMC General Hospital and CAMC Teays Valley Hospital have received the 2011 West Virginia Governor’s Award for Life from the Center of Organ Recovery and Education (CORE). The award recognizes hospitals that have been successful in supporting organ, tissue and cornea donation within their own health care facilities, and have achieved increased donation rates as a result. This is the fifth consecutive year CAMC has received the award.

“Helping to save lives through our support of organ donation is reward in itself; but to be recognized for our commitment to organ donation is an honor that makes us extremely proud,” said Mike Williams, vice president/administrator of CAMC General Hospital.

Nationally, more than 110,000 people are awaiting an organ transplant. At least 18 will die each day without receiving one, including two from CORE’s service area. For every person who donates their organs, tissues and corneas, up to 50 lives can be saved or dramatically improved.

**Did you know?**

- CAMC and all of its subsidiaries employs over 7,000 people.
- CAMC has 843 beds in 3 hospitals (General, Memorial & Women and Children’s), plus another 70 beds at CAMC Teays Valley Hospital.
- CAMC is West Virginia’s largest medical center and only transplant program. In 2010, we completed 37 transplants.

**Websites**

The Internet has many valuable resources all at your fingertips, absolutely free. Here are some reputable websites where you can:

- Get a 1099 form (proof of Social Security income): www.socialsecurity.gov/1099
- Get a replacement Medicare card: www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard
- Sign up for direct deposit or change banks: www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit
- Apply for Extra Help with Medicare Part D (drugs): www.socialsecurity.gov/i1020
- Find answers to frequently asked questions about Social Security: www.socialsecurity.gov

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