Donors and recipients honored at “Power of Organ Donation Night” in June

To help raise awareness about the importance of organ donation, CAMC’s Kidney Transplant Center, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education and the CAMC Foundation sponsored the sixth annual “Power of Organ Donation Night” with the West Virginia Power baseball team at Appalachian Power Park on June 17.

The event highlighted the importance of organ and tissue donation by honoring donors and recipients. Joe Weber, vice president of finance for the Center for Organ Recovery and Education in Pittsburgh, also presented CAMC with the 2010 Health Resources and Services Administration Medal of Honor for Donation Excellence. CAMC has received this designation for five consecutive years, placing the medical center in an elite group of less than 400 hospitals nationwide to do so. Carolyn Henry Glaspy threw out the first pitch of the baseball game in honor of all the lives touched by organ donation (see below for more information about Glaspy). And our own CAMC employee, Nancy Hall, sang the National Anthem before the baseball game began.

Seeing so many of our transplant patients at the ballgame was great for our staff. Plus, we shared the important message about organ donation with thousands of people in attendance.

Prior to the ballgame, the transplant staff sponsored a luncheon for physicians, nurses and staff at CAMC Memorial Hospital featuring guest speaker Carolyn Henry Glaspy, mother of former WVU and Cincinnati Bengals football player Chris Henry. Chris died in 2009, and Carolyn talked about her decision to donate his organs, which saved the lives of four people. Kayla Bland, a kidney recipient from Greenbrier County, also spoke about her life-changing experience of being a kidney recipient. They both were an inspiration to all who heard their touching stories.

We look forward to sponsoring The Power of Organ Donation event again next year, and hope that you will plan to join us!

Changes

We are again making staff changes in the transplant coordinator positions. Alice has moved to pre-transplant and we have hired Susan Hannah in post transplant. Susan has been a dialysis nurse at the CAMC Davita Kidney Dialysis Unit for 16 years. She knows all about kidney problems and is training as a post transplant coordinator for the next few months. Please welcome her if you see her in clinic or talk with her on the phone.

Medicare Advantage Plans

These plans are the insurance programs IN PLACE OF Medicare. Usually they cost a bit less, and generally are great for healthy people. But they are not very good for folks with chronic health problems. Most of them covered all patient medication (including transplant meds) during the first few years, but they have recently dropped the coverage of immunosuppressant drugs. The companies can choose which counties they will offer their programs to, and they promote through commissioned sales people. These plans generally are not considered good for people with chronic illnesses (dialysis and transplant), and
you CAN dis-enroll and go back to regular Medicare A, B and D between the dates of Jan. 1, 2012 and Feb. 14, 2012. YOU must be diligent in looking over the change in coverage every year as it changes. The Bureau of Senior Services can help you make changes in Advantage and Part D plans. Call 1-877-987-4463 for more information. There is a representative of this agency in every county in West Virginia ready to help you.

**Medicare changes**
Are you tired of your old Medicare Part D Plan? If you want to switch plans in 2012 you will have to do it earlier. The change dates are now Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. Every year EVERYONE should review their Part D plans as they DO CHANGE. The company may get a better deal on a certain drug and drop a preferred brand that you got in the past.

**Virginia to have its own Transplant Games in 2011**
If you like competitive sports, you might be interested in participating in the Virginia Transplant Games in Richmond, VA, in October 2011. The National Kidney Foundation cancelled the National Transplant Games for 2012, so Donate Life Virginia decided to sponsor its own games this fall. The games are open to participants from other states and to living related donors. You can also sign up for volunteer opportunities at the games. Some events are traditional track and field events, but there will also be bowling, 100-meter freestyle swimming, 3-on-3 basketball, softball throw and table tennis. Nothing is too difficult (no one will be running a four-minute mile!), and competition is by age groups. This event is not too far away, so you need to act soon if you want to get in shape to participate, attend as a spectator or volunteer! For free spectator tickets or for more information about participating or volunteering, visit www.VirginiaTransplantGames.org.

**Parking stamps**
CAMC has parking stamps available to any patients who use any of the CAMC parking buildings. The stamps cost $10 for 10 tickets (one ticket per stay, no matter how long). They are available at the security desks at General and Memorial Hospitals. When you leave the parking building simply affix a parking stamp to the parking ticket you received when you entered and hand it to the clerk at the pay booth. This is generally cheaper than parking by the hour either on the street or in the garage. There is no expiration date.