

Le Bonheur offers H1N1 vaccine to health care workers

Health care workers at Le Bonheur were the country's first to receive the H1N1 vaccine in early October. Pictured at left, Le Bonheur associates help give the first round of H1N1 vaccinations.

Le Bonheur will offer the H1N1 vaccine injection on Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 7:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to noon. Le Bonheur physicians, residents and office staff of Le Bonheur-based physicians can receive H1N1 vaccines during this time. Associates can also receive the vaccine during these times.

Physicians can learn more about the vaccine—including how it was developed and how it can be administered—by visiting www.lebonheur.org and clicking on "2009 Flu Season" section.



Pictured above, Le Bonheur associates help give the first round of H1N1 vaccinations.

Quality plan designed to improve safety, outcomes

A new Quality Council at Le Bonheur Children's is helping improve safety and patient outcomes.

The council was formed out of a request from Le Bonheur President Meri Armour, who asked that an "outcomes-based" quality initiative be implemented. From that request, a group of physicians developed a quality plan that has been implemented by Le Bonheur's Quality Improvement and Risk Management departments. A working physician subgroup – the Physician Advisory Group – has also developed out of the Quality Council to assess safety and quality issues whose resolutions are mainly dependent upon physician expertise and action. The physician subgroup is also responsible for researching evidence-based practices, providing consensus when necessary.

Representatives from the physician group work with Le Bonheur operational leaders as part of the Safety Operations Council. This council works to catalogue and prioritize issues from Root Cause Analyses activities, quality and safety issues, hospital committees and clinical departments. The safety operations group has led to a more effective pathway for the resolution of a number of hospital-wide safety concerns, generating both accountability and considerable recognition for good solutions.

According to Le Bonheur Chief Medical Officer William May, MD, the addition of the Quality Council, Physician Advisory Group and Safety Operations Council has operationalized safety and helped to integrate quality and risk. These three clinical systems have not only improved the broad issue of safety, they act as a vital source of interdepartmental communication and problem-solving within Le Bonheur.

CoverKids to cap enrollment on Nov. 30

Tennessee's CoverKids program will stop accepting new enrollment applications after Nov. 30, as the program for uninsured children is expected to reach its budgeted capacity.

Current members and those who have already been approved for coverage will receive notification confirming current enrollment status. The program will continue to accept new applications through the end of November.

CoverKids is a federally and state funded health plan through the State Children's Health Insurance program, which provides comprehensive health and dental coverage to children in families who do not qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford private health insurance.

"When we opened CoverKids in 2007, we said we would always operate within our financial means and manage enrollment accordingly," said Bob Duncan, who oversees CoverKids as director of the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination.

CoverKids has nearly 42,000 children on its rolls, all of whom will remain enrolled in the program and will not be affected by the change, providing they continue to meet eligibility requirements.

While no date is set for enrollment to reopen, Duncan did say there will be a point in the future where the natural decrease in membership due to children aging off or finding other coverage will allow for new applicants.

"The state's revenue shortfall has impacted all areas of government. CoverKids received no increase in its appropriation for this fiscal year, which requires even more responsible management, especially when it comes to enrollment," Duncan said. "The good news is that current members are not impacted by today's announcement."

Tennessee families earning less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level, which is \$55,125 per year for a family of four, qualify for CoverKids and pay no monthly premium for the plan. Income-based co-pays are required for most services, though preventive care, including well-child visits, teeth cleanings and vision screenings are fully covered.

CoverKids is a program of Cover Tennessee, Governor Phil Bredesen's initiative to address the health care needs of Tennessee's uninsured. Cover Tennessee offers three other programs, including CoverTN, a limited benefit health plan for the working uninsured. AccessTN offers comprehensive health insurance for those who are uninsurable due to pre-existing medical conditions and CoverRx provides access to affordable prescriptions for Tennesseans who lack pharmacy benefits.

For more information about any of the Cover Tennessee programs, visit www.CoverTN.gov or call 1-866-COVERTN.

Outpatient diabetes program earns kudos

Le Bonheur's outpatient Diabetes program was recently recognized by the American Diabetes Association.

Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialist Sherry Ivy, along with Le Bonheur's Cassandra Duckett, Michelle Massey, Loretta Smith and several others partnered with Germantown's Kristy Merritt and the Germantown program to complete the application.

The outpatient program was granted recognition until July 2010, and the team is now pursuing the same certification for the inpatient education program.

Make plans to attend neonatal conference

Save the date for the Sixth Annual Mid-South Seminar on the Care of the Complex Newborn.

The conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29-30, at the Westin Memphis Beale Street.

The annual conference is designed especially for neonatologists, pediatricians, family physicians, nurse practitioners and other healthcare providers that are involved in the care of newborns. Topics for the conference include pre-transport stabilization, post-discharge care of the high-risk infant, neonatal cardiovascular surgery and thermal management in delivery care. The conference will also feature nursing breakout sessions and a virtual tour of the new hospital.

Le Bonheur Educational Offerings

Presentation Title	Credit/Contact	Day, Date Time	Host Location	Presenter
Speakers Bureau: “TBA”	CME	Tuesday November 10 Lunch – Noon Conference – 12:30 p.m.	Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare Germantown Campus Conference Room I Germantown, TN	Scott Kloek, M.D. Private Practice Pediatrician Memphis Children’s Clinic Memphis, TN
Pediatric Grand Rounds: “Newborn Foot Deformities”	CME	Wednesday November 11 8:00 - 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	Derek Kelly, M.D. Pediatric Orthopedist Campbell Clinic Clinical Instructor, University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, TN
Pediatric Grand Rounds: “TBA”	CME	Wednesday November 18 8:00 - 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	Maurice Sholas, M.D., Ph.D. Professor of Pediatrics Emory University School of Medicine Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Atlanta, GA
Speakers Bureau: “Practical Aspects of Pediatric and Neonatal Pain Management”	CME	Tuesday November 24 Noon	AHEC Family Practice Center Jonesboro, AR	K.J.S. “Sunny” Anand, M.B.B.S., D. Phil., FAAP, FCCM, FRCPC Professor of Pediatrics, Anesthesiology, & Neurobiology St. Jude Chair for Critical Care Medicine Division Chief, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, TN
Pediatric Grand Rounds: “One from the Heart:: The Evolution of Pediatric Heart Surgery”	CME	Wednesday November 25 8:00 – 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	Steven Goldberg, M.D. Assistant Professor Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, TN

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. All presentations should be evidence based and contain content without commercial bias. Content should include a balanced view of all therapeutic options.

Physician and Referral Services

Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center
50 North Dunlap
Memphis, TN 38103



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Voices to advocate for children issues



Mark Yates

A new division at Le Bonheur has been created to improve the lives of youth in our community by advocating for effective public policies. Voices for Memphis' Children will exist as a separate not-for-profit organization, and will solicit memberships from local child-related service providers. As a founding partner, Le Bonheur help unify like-minded institutions throughout the city.

The division will be led by Mark Yates, a former senior vice president for Rice Financial Products Co. – a public finance investment banking firm. In addition to his financial background, Yates has also served as chairman of the Shelby County Democratic Party and chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Harold Ford, Jr.

“Our hope is that Voices for Memphis' Children will become a powerful coalition of organizations whose missions are commonly focused on issues affecting children,” said Le Bonheur Children's President Meri Armour.

