National Organ Donor Week brings awareness of need

February 28 through March 5 has been designated National Organ Donor Week. "The main goal is being set aside to increase the public's awareness of organ donation and transplants," says Mary Anne House, transplant coordinator for MCG's Kidney Procurement Program.

MCG's donor program is very active and has expanded from kidneys to hearts and other organs and more recently, skin for transplant to patients with severe burns. Linked with an international network of transplant coordinators, MCG has a satellite program established in Savannah.

According to House, 40 cadaver kidneys and 121 corneas were donated at MCG for transplant in 1982. In addition, five hearts were donated. Seven cadaver livers were donated, four of which were used for transplant and three for research into inborn metabolic problems. Seven pancreases were donated for research into pancreatic cancer and pancreatitis. There was one skin donor.

Twenty-four kidney transplants were performed at Talmadge Memorial Hospital in 1982 and 36 corneas transplants. While heart and liver transplants are not performed at Talmadge, the MCG transplant coordinators work with other teams to match donated organs with recipients and also provide assistance to the transplant teams that come to retrieve the organs. House explains, "We have three places in the United States transplanting livers, with 95 percent of the transplant operations being done at the University of Pittsburgh. Transplants of hearts and heart valves are done at 12 hospitals in the country. House says time is important in all transplants, but is most critical when a heart is removed.

She says a transplant team will fly to a donor hospital and while the heart is being removed, another team is beginning surgery on the patient in the recipient hospital. The transplant must be done within three-and-a-half to four hours after removal.

Kidneys, if preserved on ice, can be held up to 12 hours and eyes, 24 to 72 hours, depending on how they are preserved.

House says the first kidney transplant was done in 1954 in Boston and the first heart transplant in 1967 in South Africa by Dr. Christian Barnard. The first liver transplant was in 1965.

The decision to donate specific organs or any organs that are needed for transplant, medical research or education at the time of a person's death can be made and recorded on an organ donor card at any time. House says it is advisable that people wishing to make such donations be sure their next of kin know of their desire.

Donor cards are available through the Kidney Foundation, the American Talmadge Fund and the Georgia Lions Eye Bank.

There are now ten banks in the Augusta area that work with MCG to offer automatic deposit of payroll checks. The service is available to all employees. All an employee has to do is go to either the Personnel office or Payroll and sign up.

Instead of a check each pay period, the employee will receive a pay slip showing gross pay, deductions and net pay deposited. This is done on or before payday.

The advantages of automatic deposit to the employee include no possibility of theft, loss of check or forgery. The deposit will be made if the employee is on vacation or sick. In addition, there is no standing in long lines on payday.

Banks working with MCG to offer this service include the Citizens and Southern National Bank, the Georgia State Bank, First National Bank and Trust, Bankers Trust, Georgia Railroad Bank and Trust, South Carolina National Bank, First Bank (First National of Atlanta), First Federal Savings and Loan, Georgia Federal Savings and Loan and Security Federal.
Medical transcriptionists form organization for CSRA at MCG

A local chapter of the American Association for Medical Transcription (AAMT) held a recent organization meeting at MCG. About 40 medical transcriptionists from the CSRA attended.

Guest speakers at the meeting included Dr. Charles Wray, chief of staff at Talmadge Hospital and Lin Brown of New Orleans, representing National AAMT. She told the group some of the primary goals of the AAMT are to provide education for medical transcriptionists as well as open communication with other health professionals. Brown added that under development at this time is a comprehensive medical transcription course of study, college degree or certificate program for the transcriptionists which will meet accreditation standards of the American Medical Association.

Currently, a national examination to certify qualified medical transcriptionists is administered periodically throughout the United States. Those who are certified are required to earn 30 continuing education credits over a three-year period to maintain certification status. The CSRA chapter of AAMT will begin monthly meetings in the near future. Anyone wishing to join the organization or having suggestions for programs should contact Joanie Williford at ext. 287.

Head nurses at Talmadge Hospital feasted last week at a luncheon given in their honor by the Department of Nursing Services. Given on Valentine's Day, the luncheon was to let the nurses know they are considered "sweethearts" and to say thanks for a job well done.

News briefs

Fire seminar set

The Public Safety Division will sponsor a home fire safety seminar on March 2 at 1 pm in room 130 of the Auditoria Center. The seminar will deal with such topics as smoke detectors, fire prevention and how to escape fires in the home.

Phil Thiel, safety manager for the Public Safety Division, will discuss these topics and other areas of interest. The program will last approximately one hour. Public Safety urges all interested faculty, staff and students to attend.

Free program offered

Two free classes in the on-line and manual use of Excerpta Medica will be held at the Library on March 9 and 10.

The March 9 program is for beginners and will be held from 9 am until 1:15 pm. Both sessions will be in room 211 of the Library.

Excerpta Medica is a major medical abstract service covering human medicine. The service's database coverage includes drug literature, environmental health and pollution control, health economics and hospital management and forensic science.

For further information call Gall Anderson or Lyn Dennison at ext. 2992.

Ride wanted

Wanted, a ride or carpool from the Windsor Spring Road, Young Forest Drive area. Hours are from 8:30 am until 5 pm.

Call Joyce at ext. 2856 or 2857.

For sale Mediterranean style bedroom set. Includes double bed and chest of drawers/dresser with mirror. Asking $350 or best offer. Call Rita at 4831 or 793-1852.

Calendar

Monday 2/28

Organ Donor Week begins

March is...

National Nutrition Month

Hemophilia Month

Red Cross Month

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Notables

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Pam Kaminski, a dental hygiene student at MCG, shows children at the recent Toothtown Carnival the finer points of having cleaner teeth. The carnival was part of Children's Dental Health Month.

Beeper

Division of Institutional Relations

Medical College of Georgia

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