



**Inside this issue:**

Clinic Notes	<b>2</b>
Behind the Scenes	<b>3</b>
Clinic News	<b>4</b>
Distracted Driving	<b>5</b>
Immunizations	<b>6</b>
Clinic Services	<b>7</b>
Advocacy/ Outreach	<b>8</b>

**New Kensington Clinic**

943 Fourth Ave.  
New Kensington,  
PA 15068

**Medical/  
Behavioral Health**

**P. 724.335.3334**

**F. 724.335.2283**

**Dental**

947 Fourth Avenue  
New Kensington  
PA 15068

**P. 724.335.2862**

**Vandergrift Clinic**

179 Columbia Ave.  
Vandergrift, PA 15690  
**P. 724.567.5671**

**A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AT YOUR  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

John is 29 years old and married with two children, ages 3 and 4. John had a good job with good health care benefits, but was laid off a year ago, and now is working as a contract employee with no health care coverage. He earns about \$34,000 per year. His daughters qualify for Medical Assistance, but John and his wife were denied coverage when they applied at the County Assistance Office. John has asthma and has recently been having asthma flare-ups. He notices his rescue inhaler is almost empty, and he is concerned that soon he will not be able to control his asthma. Since he lost his health insurance, he has not been able to afford his medicine or afford to see his doctor at full charge. A friend suggests John call Community Health Clinic.

John calls Community Health Clinic and he is pleased to learn that he can get an appointment for the next day before work. He also is surprised that he can see the doctor that day with our one-day sliding fee for \$15.00. On arrival, John is greeted by our friendly receptionist and given a sliding-fee application to fill out. Once he brings in his proof of income, follow-up visits for either him or his wife will be \$35.00 with our sliding fee, considerably less than the \$125.00 their previous doctor charges for people without insurance. The clean and bright look of the facility does not match his stereotype of a “clinic” either.

After a few minutes, the Medical Assistant calls John and leads him back to the examination room. She takes his vitals and enters them into the electronic records keeping system. Soon the doctor comes in, and as she exams him for his medical complaint she also screens John for any behavioral health issues. John is anxious about his health and work situation. As the doctor leaves, she asks one of the behavioral health team members to stop in and visit John. This is known as a warm hands-off. (continued on page 3)

Please Follow Us



[www.communityhealthclinic.org](http://www.communityhealthclinic.org)

To unsubscribe from our email list send an email to:  
[smcmannis@communityhealthclinic.org](mailto:smcmannis@communityhealthclinic.org)





## CLINIC NOTES

### INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST COMMUNITY PARTNER-CORE



CORE-the Center for Organ Recovery and Donation is Community Health Clinics newest community partner. CORE has formed a partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Clinics of which we are a member. CORE will be participating in some of our outreach events such as New Kensington Better Block and our celebration of National Health Center Week in August.



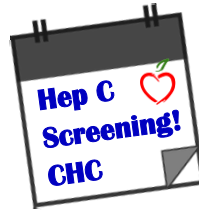
### PATIENT PORTAL

All Community Health Clinic patients have access to the Patient Portal. Logging on to the portal allows them to:

- Send secure messages to their doctor
- Request prescription refills
- Request appointments
- Access their medical records

The portal is accessed at [www.nextmed.com](http://www.nextmed.com) and requires a “token” available from CHC to first log-on.

### FREE HEPATITIS C SCREENINGS NOW MONTHLY AT COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC.



Due to the success of April’s Hepatitis C Screening the Pennsylvania Department of Health has partnered with Community Health Clinic to hold monthly Hepatitis C screenings. The screenings will be held **the third Tuesday of each month from 10 AM - 2 PM** at our New Kensington Clinic. **The next screening will be on May 16th.**

### Risk Factors for Hepatitis C (HCV) include:

- Current and previous injection drug use, including those who only injected one time
- Recipient of donated blood, blood products, and organs prior to 1992
- People who received blood products for clotting problems prior to 1987
- People who spent many years on dialysis
- People who received body piercings or tattoos with non-sterile instruments
- Individuals having sexual contact with a person with HCV.
- “Baby Boomers” persons born between 1945-1965

Results from the screening will be available in 20 minutes and those with positive results will receive referrals to confirmatory testing, counseling, and be connected to care programs. No appointment is necessary. There is no charge whatsoever for the screening.



**BEHIND THE SCENES** (cont. from page 1)

The behavioral health provider introduces herself and talks with John about his anxiety. John decides that it may be wise to get some help dealing with the stress he is facing. He can see the behavioral health team for a \$7.00 copay. John likes the fact that he does not have to travel to another location or wait a long time for a behavioral health appointment and that he has already met his therapist. This also protects John's privacy, if any one sees him at the clinic they have no idea if he is accessing medical or behavioral health services. That helps John overcome some of the barriers he might have faced and to feel more comfortable in seeking help.

The MA returns and draws his blood. This means John will not have to take off work to go have a blood draw at another facility. John's bloodwork will also be on a discounted fee.

The doctor returns and discusses John's case with him. She writes a prescription for a new rescue inhaler and sends John to see the nurse who will help him get the prescription through the 340B program which provides assistance in procuring medications for those without insurance. The doctor also suggests that John speak with the applications counselor to see if he would qualify for some type of health insurance coverage.

After John is finished in the exam room the MA brings him to see the application counselor. The counselor determines that John may qualify for MAWD –a little known type of Medical assistance, that is available to

certain working adults with long-term medical problems. The counselor helps John submit an application. He also explains all the services available to him at Community Health Clinic. John learns he can also receive dental care with the sliding fee as well.

A few weeks later, John is approved for Medical Assistance through the MAWD program. His doctor also had received the results of his bloodwork and ordered some additional tests. Community Health Clinic's nurse care manager works with John to help him schedule the tests around his work schedule.

*John's story, although fictitious, is illustrative of the services and benefits provided by Community Health Clinic and other community health centers. Patients are able to receive quality, comprehensive, coordinated medical care and services. Care that puts their needs first. They can access this care whether or not they have insurance, and many of the services are provided in one location.*

Fees based on  
**ability to pay**



**Quality** primary health care open to **all**

**H**ighly competent **health professional team**

**C**ommunity governed and **patient-centered** to ensure they are **responsive** to their patient population





### COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC NEWS IN BRIEF



#### VETERANS' BENEFIT CLINIC

Mark your calendars! The next Veteran's Benefit clinic will be

**Thursday, June 15th** at our **New Kensington Clinic-at 943 Fourth Avenue, New Kensington.**

Jennifer Bogus, National Service Officer from the Military Order of the Purple Heart Pittsburgh Regional Office, will be on site to assist veterans, their spouses and dependents with claims for compensation, pension, survivors benefits, death benefits, accessing military records and discharge upgrades. The clinic runs from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**



#### IN-PERSON SNAP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR WESTMORELAND COUNTY RESIDENTS

CHC is partnering with the Westmoreland County Food Bank to provide in-person assistance to apply for SNAP (Food Stamps) benefits. The next SNAP clinic will be **May 16th from 9 AM-4 PM** at our **New Kensington Clinic, 943 Fourth Ave., New Kensington.**

#### SLIDING FEE SCALE

Community Health Clinic uses a sliding-fee scale to make health care more affordable for our uninsured and underinsured patients. The slide applies to patients with income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line. A doctor visit starts at \$15.00, a dental visit at 50% discount and behavioral health visit at \$5.00. **Please call 724.335.3334 to schedule an appointment**

Community Health Clinic, Inc. - Sliding Fee Scale  
Revised 12/2017

FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL				
	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$45,000	\$55,000
1	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
2	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
3	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
4	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
5	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
6	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
7	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
8	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

NOTE: For family size of more than 8 members, add \$4.00 for each additional member.  
SOURCE: Federal Register Volume 42 Number 161 (August 19, 2017) Page 4031-4032

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC IS ON THE INTERNET



Please visit us at:

[www.communityhealthclinic.org](http://www.communityhealthclinic.org)  
[www.facebook.com/communityhealth.org](http://www.facebook.com/communityhealth.org)



#### COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC DENTAL SERVICES

In addition to our regular dental services Community Health Clinic offers dental laboratory services. These include:

- Complete Dentures-upper and lower
- Partial Dentures
- Flippers (temporary partial denture)
- Crowns
- Bridges

Although these are not offered with our dental

sliding fee, they are competitively priced. We do offer a payment program. Medical Assistance requires a benefit limit exemption.

Of course, we continue to offer our basic services such as:

- Exams
- Cleanings
- X-rays
- Fillings and extractions

We take almost all dental insurance, as well.

To schedule an appointment call 724.335.2862





## HEALTH TIPS



### DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

With ever increasing demands on our personal and professional time in today's busy society, learning to juggle multiple tasks at once is something we all face daily. As a result, a new traffic safety epidemic has emerged on America's roadways that demands immediate attention: distracted driving.

In 2013, 3,154 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver. One of the most alarming and widespread forms of distracted driving is cell phone usage. According to a study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55-mph for the length of an entire football field.

And a 2014 special article in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the risk of a crash or near-crash among novice drivers increased with the performance of many secondary tasks, including texting and dialing cell phones.

Text messaging is of heightened concern because it combines three types of distraction—visual, manual and cognitive. In other words, texting involves taking your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the task of driving.

NHTSA's message is simple—"One Text or Call Could Wreck it All."

So the next time you are pressed for time, and it seems like multitasking in the car is the best decision, remember those 3,154 lives that were taken because someone decided they could do two things at once.

**A text or call is not worth your life, or anyone else's.**



NHTSA "Wreck it All" Campaign

Courtesy: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

### One Donor Can Save Eight Lives.

**One person can donate up to 8 lifesaving organs.**

- Heart
- 2 Lungs
- Liver
- Pancreas
- 2 Kidneys
- Intestines

Courtesy: Organdonor.gov

April is National Organ Donor Awareness Month.







## HEALTH TIPS

### FOUR IMPORTANT REASONS TO VACCINATE YOUR CHILD



#### **Immunizations can save your child's life.**

Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children are no longer common in the U.S.-primarily due to safe and effective vaccines. Polio is one example of the great impact that vaccines have had in the United States. Polio was once America's most feared disease, causing death and paralysis across the country, but thanks to vaccination the United States has been polio free since 1979.

#### **Vaccination is very safe and effective.**

Vaccines are only given to children after careful review by scientists, doctors, and other healthcare professionals. Vaccine side effects are almost always mild such as redness or swelling at the site of the shot, but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort, and risk of injury and death from the diseases the vaccines prevent. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare. The disease-prevention benefits of getting vaccinated are much greater than the possible side-effects for almost all children.

#### **Immunization protects others you care**

**about.** Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases. In fact, we have seen resurgences of measles and whooping cough over the past few years. For example, in 2014, there were 667 cases of measles in 27 states, the greatest number of cases since measles was eliminated in 2000. Almost one in ten people who became sick with measles in one outbreak were babies too young to be vaccinated. While some babies may be too young to be vaccinated, others may not be able to receive certain vaccinations due to severe allergies or weakened immune systems. To help keep them safe, it is important that you and your children who are able to get vaccinated are fully immunized.

#### **Immunizations can save your family time and money.**

A child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be denied attendance at school or daycare facilities. Some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disabilities and can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills, or long-term disability care. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment and is usually covered by insurance. There are programs that provide vaccines at no cost to low-income families. **Community Health Clinic participates in the Vaccines for Children Program, it provides free vaccines for low-income children.** Call 724.335.3334 to schedule an appointment to have your children vaccinated.

Courtesy: CDC.gov Centers for Disease Control and Prevention





# COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

## CHC MEDICAL STAFF



Charmaine Batac, MD  
Medical Director



Ronald Proctor, DDS  
Dental Director



Adolfo Bagnarello, MD  
Vandergrift Clinic



Lynn Vermeulen, CRNP

## CHC SERVICES

Our Services Include:

- General Medical Services for Adult and Pediatric Patients
- General Dentistry
- CDL License Physicals
- Laboratory Testing
- Psychiatric Services
- Behavioral Health Services including counseling with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Case Management
- Medical Case Management
- High Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Asthma, Diabetes, COPD services
- Immunizations
- STD Testing and Treatment
- Gynecological Services and Pap Testing
- Family Planning (Birth Control)
- Referral Services
- Diet and Nutrition Services
- Suboxone Treatment



Our pediatric room offers seating for the whole family, no need to worry about the siblings, they can be right with the parents during exams and treatment.

We take all insurances including Highmark and UPMC. Our physicians have admitting privileges at both Allegheny Health Network and UPMC facilities. We provide a sliding fee scale for those without insurance.



We have reserved a seat just for you! Call 724.335. 3334 (New Ken) or 724.567.5671 (Vandergrift) to schedule your appointment today!





## ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

### MAJOR CHANGES TO MARKETPLACE INSURANCE FOR 2018.

These changes are the result of certain rule changes by CMS and are not related to any of the changes being debated by Congress.

1. **The 2018 open enrollment period will be from November 1st to December 15th, 2017.** This shortens the open enrollment period to 6 weeks instead of 12.
2. **Insurers can charge new enrollees for past due premiums from prior coverage.** If a person dropped coverage in previous years an insurer can charge them all past due premiums before enrolling them in coverage for 2018. This practice was prohibited under the old rules.
3. **Insurers can offer plans with higher out-of-pocket costs.** Insurers can adjust the actuarial value of the plan by as much as 2% below the current metal levels, resulting in higher out-of-pocket costs for consumers.
4. **Pre-enrollment verification is required for Special Enrollment Period (SEP).** This rule begins in June 2017. Consumers who lose health coverage or qualify for another type of Special Enrollment Period, which allows them to enroll in a Marketplace plan outside of the normal open enrollment, must submit proof they are

entitled to the SEP before the SEP will be granted. The window for submitting this proof is only 30 days. Enrollment will be retroactive to the date of plan selection.

5. **Consumers will not be able to switch metal levels during an SEP.** Except those whose drop in income make them newly eligible for cost-sharing reductions (CSRs)
6. **Changes to other SEPs.** There are additional changes to the rules for the Loss of Coverage SEP, Marriage SEP, Exceptional Circumstance SEP, and Permanent Move SEP as well.

For help understanding all of these new Marketplace rule changes please call our Certified Application Counselor (CAC) at 724.889.2783. All CAC services are at absolutely no cost or obligation.

### OUTREACH EVENTS

Please look for Community Health Clinic at these community events:

**New Ken Better Block**-Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 11:00-6:30 downtown New Kensington

**Rockin' Roosevelt**-Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:30-8:00 –Roosevelt Park, Arnold

Free assistance applying for Marketplace, Medicaid, CHIP and VA health coverage is available from CHC please call 724.889.2783

