Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Hosts LGBTQ+ Health and Community Resource Fair in Recognition of Pride Month

By Janine Roach, M.D.

The LGBTQ+ Committee at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center hosted an LGBTQ+ Health and Community Resource Fair in honor of LGBTQ Pride month on June 6, 2019. Our committee worked diligently to promote the event to our hospital staff, patients, and community members through social media, flyers and email blasts. In addition, local mental health clinics, community partners and elected officials invited people to attend. Local businesses also promoted the event and donated food and prizes such as Dodgers tickets and restaurant gift cards, demonstrating broad support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Because of our collaborations, the event was a huge success. Approximately 300 people attended the event. Fifteen organizations participated and provided information about a number of LGBTQ+ topics including HIV testing and prevention, local LGBT centers and support groups and transgender health care. Participating organizations also had resources available for survivors

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MyWellness Competition Leads to 59% Increase in Enrollments

By Ismael Chinchilla

The MyWellness patient portal enrollment competition wrapped up at the end of January and saw a monthly enrollment increase of 59% from the beginning of the campaign. The three month competition that ran from November 1st to January 31st asked DHS and DPH staff to market and enroll patients in the MyWellness patient portal during usual clinical care.

In November, the first month of the competition, 1,480 new patients enrolled in the portal. During January, the last month of the competition, 2,482 new patients enrolled in the portal. The entire competition saw 5,642 new patients enrolled in the MyWellness patient portal.

Enrollment in the MyWellness patient portal provides patients with a useful tool to help them take control of their health. Studies show that patients who are...
actively involved in managing their health have better outcomes and are more satisfied with their medical care.

Dr. Anshu Abhat, Director of Transitions of Care and Patient Engagement, has seen a positive response to the MyWellness patient portal from her patients. She shares, “MyWellness is really evolving as a tool to get patients engaged in their care. I used to have a hard time getting my diabetic patients to get their labs done before their visit with me. Now, when I walk in the exam room, my patients start off the conversation – Dr. Abhat, I saw my hemoglobin A1c lab on MyWellness. I’m not happy with it this month, and this is what I want to do. What do you think? This is a whole new level of patient engagement, and I’m finding we are having deeper doctor-patient discussions and shared decision-making on how to improve diabetes outcomes and quality of life.”

Enrollment in the MyWellness patient portal also helps alleviate staff workloads. Patients can get lab results, read provider notes, message their provider, request appointments and refill their prescriptions via the portal. This results in less phone calls to our facilities and less trips to the doctor for our patients.

LAC+USC Primary Care Adult East led the way for DHS with 166 patient enrollments during the competition. Curtis R. Tucker Sexual Health Clinic was the highest enrollee for DPH with 207 enrollments. The Office of Patient Access Headquarters enrolled 549 patients during the competition, the highest for any patient access center. Jose Cordova, formerly of the North Hollywood Health Center enrolled the most patients of any DHS and DPH staff, he helped enroll 243 patients during the competition.

MyWellness “Self-Enrollment” just got easier for our patients

Now all patients need is:
1) Name
2) Date of birth
3) Medical Record number or email (already stored in ORCHID)

• Patients no longer need a social security number to enroll.
• All you need to do is direct patients to http://dhs.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dhs/mywellness/
• Your patients can enroll right from their own device in your waiting room even without an email invitation.
• And more good news...we’re building e-Clipboard. Soon, patients will be able to fill out forms even before they come in for their office visits. More to come!

Water is an Essential Part of Disaster Preparedness

By Contributing writers, LA County Emergency Health Services (EMS) Agency

Following a disaster or incident resulting in an extended power outage, clean drinking water may not be available. Normal water sources could be cut-off or contaminated. Employees should prepare for disasters by building a water supply at work and that will meet their family’s needs at home during an emergency.

A general guideline is to store one gallon of water, per person, per day, for at least three days for drinking and sanitation. The demand would be higher in hot climates, or when caring for the medically fragile or frail.

Water should be stored in prepackaged containers in a safe, cool space. Water does not expire but it is good to rotate bottled water reserves so it doesn’t develop a plastic taste over time. For work, a suitable location for storage would be under your work desk or in a secured cabinet. It is a good idea to have a case of water stored in the trunk of your car as well. A personal water filtration straw and cup is another good option for your car or disaster preparedness kit.

Water pipes are maintained under pressurized conditions in city water systems. If the pipes break or if the water pressure fails for another reason, the water may become contaminated and require boiling prior to consumption.

At home, a water heater can be a source for up to 40-50 gallons of clean water. That is another reason to have earthquake straps on water heaters!

It would be a good idea to work with your manager/supervisor, and co-workers to develop a plan for emergency water storage or “community” water supply for your work section following the general guideline of one gallon per person, per day for at least three days.

For additional information on the importance of water in disasters see: https://www.ready.gov/water