



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

The Pulse

Twin Cities
Pediatric Specialty Care
Orthopaedic

Volume 3 Issue 2



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The Introduction of Patient Insurance Billing At Shriners Hospitals for Children®

During the 2010 Imperial Session, policy changes were enacted that enabled the introduction of insurance billing at Shriners Hospitals. This policy change was approved in recognition of increasing financial pressures on the system and the belief that we can serve more children by broadening the base of financial support.

On April 19 of this year, Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Twin Cities will begin to bill patient insurances for the first time. We have begun to communicate with patient families about the changes in our practice that are necessary to collect and process insurance information. At the start, patients will experience some of the changes summarized below.

- In advance of scheduled patient visits, families will be contacted to pre-register where insurance information will be gathered over the phone. This information will then be confirmed upon arrival at the hospital.
- Parents will be asked to sign various release forms that again enable billing of insurance. Additional family financial information may be gathered at this time so that Shriners Hospitals can continue their practice to provide care without financial obligation.
- Consistent with past practice, families will not be billed for any balance after insurance has paid for services provided at Shriners Hospitals for Children®.
- Insurance billing will cover both Shriners Hospitals for Children® services and related physician services.

It is our intent to maintain the same care environment that is valued by patients and families. We know that various policy changes will raise questions in the coming days and months. We are prepared to respond as needed. We encourage patient families to ask questions by calling (612-596-6112) or writing (clobeck@shrinenet.org). This is an important transition for Shriners Hospitals for Children® and we look forward to the challenge.

Charles Lobeck
Administrator

A Little Quiz About Wills



The following true/false quiz will help you measure how much you know (or don't know) about having a will. To see how you did, check out the answers below...no peeking in advance!

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- ___ 1. Most states will honor a hand written will as long as it is signed by an attorney.
- ___ 2. A married couple only needs to have one will.
- ___ 3. If a person dies without a will, the state automatically takes one-half of the estate for probate fees.
- ___ 4. It is illegal to open and read a deceased person's will until after the funeral.
- ___ 5. A "codicil" is the stamped impression that makes a will valid.

All of the answers are false.

1. No state requires that a will must be signed by an attorney and some states even recognize a hand-written will. (However, the assistance of a qualified attorney is recommended.)
2. Each partner in the marriage should have his or her own will.
3. While it is true that the state, in the absence of a valid will, dictates the disposition of the estate, it does not automatically receive half the amount. But if you die with no will, there may be a large increase in probate costs.
4. A will can be opened and read anytime after death, or earlier with appropriate permission.
5. A "codicil" is an addendum added later to a previously prepared will.

To learn more about wills and other estate planning matters, contact the development office in confidence: Don Engel, at (612) 596-6201 or dengel@shrinenet.org.



A New Way to Support the Twin Cities Hospital!

Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Twin Cities has partnered with dealeebob.com to help raise funds for the hospital.

Dealeebob.com is an online company offering 50% to 90% off daily deals to the best restaurants, spas, family entertainment and more in the Twin Cities area!

It's simple, just click the link below to register to have the daily deals emailed to you, and 5% of every purchase you make on dealeebob.com will go directly back to Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Twin Cities.

Go here to register: <http://dealeebob.com/np/ShrinersHospitalsTwinCities>



Hero of the Month "Johnathan"



This hero quite literally has a halo. Johnathan is a familiar face at the Twin Cities Hospital as he has been a patient since he was five years old! At the age of 12, Johnathan has already undergone two previous spine surgeries and is preparing for a third within the next year. He is currently an inpatient with a projected length of stay of 6-12 weeks due to the halo traction which is helping to prepare him for his upcoming spinal fusion.

This young man is awesome! If you ask him what his biggest concern is about being in the hospital his answer doesn't have anything to do with his health. His focus and concern is that he keeps up his A/B average in school! Jonathan is a great student and enjoys reading and participating in media tech.

Jonathan has an outgoing, warm personality which endears him to everyone. His determination and positive attitude makes him stand out as a great role model for other patients.

Congratulations Johnathan, you are our Hero of the Month!

You Still Have Time To Schedule an Evaluation Clinic

Contact

Mary Kautto, RN, Outreach Director at 612.596.6104 or kautto@shrinenet.org.

What is Scoliosis? What is Halo Traction?

Scoliosis is a lateral (side) curvature of the spine. There are three main types of scoliosis:

- Idiopathic scoliosis is when a lateral curve of the spine is not caused by another condition. It can occur as follows:
 - Infantile occurs before the age of three.
 - Juvenile appears between the ages of 4 and 10 years of age.
 - Adolescent appears at age 11 or older.
- Congenital scoliosis is a lateral curvature of the spine caused by misshapen vertebrae that are present at birth.
- Neuromuscular scoliosis may occur because of other underlying disorders such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, neurofibromatosis, or muscular dystrophy.

Scoliosis is NOT a disease and it did NOT develop as a result of anything that you did or did not do.

Surgical correction is designed to control the curve that's already there, and stop the curve from getting larger. A solid bony fusion is the desired result. Most often, pieces of metal we call "hardware" is used at the time of fusion surgery. Surgery may involve the back, front, or both front and back of the spine.

Some of the benefits of spine surgery include:

- Prevention of a greater curve
- Improved appearance
- Prevention of heart and/or lung involvement

In some cases, Halo traction is utilized to change the curve of the spine before attempting surgery in order to get a better correction during spinal fusion.

Halo traction is a device where pins are placed in the patient's skull under anesthesia and attached to a metal ring around the forehead and the back of the head, usually just above the ear. The traction is then attached to a series of weights that increases over time to one-third of the patient's body weight. The patient is in traction for a period of 4-12 weeks depending on the severity of the curve. The traction must be in place at all times, but can be attached to the bed, wheelchair or specially designed walkers for mobility and activities.



Doesn't everyone remember their first Prom?

The word "Prom" conjures up images of an exciting frenzy of outfits, stunning hairstyles, stretch limos and dates. While in fact, during the early part of the 20th century, prom was just a small-time, simple affair with little in the way of organization or preparation.

As the decades passed and different types of music exploded onto the scene, the dances became more and more elaborate culminating into the high school prom that we know today.

Because many of our kids don't have an opportunity to go to a high school prom, our Child Life department, under the direction of Maureen Johnston, decided to have one!

Patients between the ages of 15-18 who live in the Twin Cities area just received their invitation to attend the First Annual Shriners Hospitals for Children® -Twin Cities Prom, being held at the Minnesota Masonic Center on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

On April 16 the kids have been invited to look through a large selection of dresses, tuxes, and jewelry that have been donated for this event. Hair, nail and make-up appointments have been donated by local stylists and will be scheduled on a first-come basis.

Two local photographers have donated their time to capture the moment for the kids. It is sure to be an evening of fun, food, laughter and dancing that we hope they never forget!

*For more information call 612.596.6119
or e-mail lherro@shrinenet.org.*

One winter/spring in-house screening clinic remains for children 17 years & younger:
Weds, March 23, 2011—1:00pm-4:00pm
Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Twin Cities
2025 E River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55414
*For more information or to make an appointment
Phone: (612) 596-6105 or 1-888-293-2832*



Getting to Know the Staff Nick Goree, Insurance Coordinator

Nick has been at the Twin Cities hospital for 3-1/2 years. Having grown up in Wausau, WI, Nick is quick to point out that his blood runs "green and gold"! Nick doesn't like going on vacations—what is that all about?! He plays softball from the minute the snow melts until the first snowflakes fall in winter.

Nick enjoys cooking, checking out new restaurants, and playing video games. He is currently in school and is proud of his 4.0 GPA. Go Niick!!

Twin Cities Hospital Day

Friday, May 20, 2011

Continental Breakfast

7:00AM-9:30AM

Program

9:30AM-2:00PM

(Suggested donation for Continental Breakfast and Lunch is \$7.00/person)

All Shriners and their Ladies are invited to join us for Hospital Day 2011. Enjoy a day socializing with old friends, meeting new ones and hearing the latest news about the Twin Cities Hospital.



"Sam"

To assist with planning, please RSVP by phone 612.596.6112 or email jcarns@shrinenet.org before Fri, May 13. If you are part of a large group or bus group, please register the total number attending.

For hotel information and driving directions contact jcarns@shrinenet.org.