

Hospital Happenings

February 2009

Since it is February, it must be time for the Montrose Memorial Hospital Health Fair and Early Blood Draws. The purpose of the Health Fair is to provide you with basic health screening information that you and your healthcare provider can use while "caring for you!" Last year we had over 3,800 people participate in this great event and I would like to give you a bit of information about the blood testing and the Health Fair.

From February 11th to the 14th, we will be doing "Early Blood Draws" at the Montrose Pavilion in anticipation of the Health Fair on March 7th. During this time, you may have your choice of four blood tests. The Chemistry and Lipid Profile, \$40.00, screens several basic functions in your body. These include, kidney function, muscle and bone function, liver function, iron function, heart function and thyroid function to name a few. The Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), \$30.00, is a blood test that measures a protein that is only produced by the male prostate gland. Elevations of PSA may occur in men with prostate cancer or non-cancerous prostatic diseases. Thirdly, the Complete Blood Count (CBC), \$20.00, is one of the most commonly ordered blood screening tests and is used to present a general picture of a person's overall health. In the CBC test, the different types of cells in the blood are counted and examined. Last, but not least, we offer the Hemoglobin A1c for \$35, which is an additional screen for diabetes. If you have a family history of diabetes, this may be a test you might like to add. These are the only blood tests available during the blood draws. If you're not sure which tests you should have done, talk to your healthcare provider and get their advice.

The advantages of doing the Early Blood Draw are two fold. First, we take appointments and are able to spread out the number of people who attend during a specific time period. Between February 2 and 5 from 8:00am and 1:00pm each day, we will have volunteers taking appointments for Early Blood Draws in Montrose. They answer the phones as quickly as possible, so don't get frustrated. Keep trying if you get a busy signal.

We will also be doing Early Blood Draws in Olathe at the American Legion Hall on February 9th and at Condor Hall in Ridgway on February 7th. You do NOT need an appointment for blood draws in Olathe or Ridgway.

Another advantage of the Early Blood Draws is that your blood test results will be mailed to you within two weeks and you can take them with you to the MMH Health Fair on March 7th. During the Health Fair, we have healthcare providers who donate their time to talk to you and help you understand your blood test results. They will answer any questions you may have and refer you to your personal healthcare provider if they feel you need more follow up.

If you are out of town, or unable to attend the Early Blood Draws, we will have the exact same blood tests available at the Health Fair, as well many other health screens and informational booths.

Montrose Memorial Hospital is pleased to present this community service and we look forward to seeing you at the Fair!