Hospitals are preparing for a new policy starting October 1 in which Medicare will not reimburse for 11 conditions the agency deemed to be preventable. The conditions are:

- Air Embolism
- Blood incompatibility
- Catheter-associated urinary-tract infection
- Certain manifestations of poor control of blood sugar levels
- Deep-vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism after total knee and hip replacements
- Falls/trauma
- Objects left in during surgery
- Pressure ulcers
- Surgical-site infections after certain orthopedic and bariatric surgeries
- Surgical-site infections after coronary bypass graft
- Vascular catheter-associated infection

Source: CMS (www.modernhealthcare.com)
Please welcome William Morris and Kathleen Smith to the VUMC Perioperative Education team!

William C. Morris RN, BSN -- Systems Support Specialist II
William is originally from Hot Springs Arkansas. He recently moved here in May with his wife Lindsey, who works here at Vanderbilt as a post-doctoral fellow. He has been a Registered Nurse for 13 years, obtaining his Bachelor’s degree from Arkansas Tech University as a Summa Cum Laude graduate. The majority of his career has been in the operating room, including 7 years as a travel nurse-working in destinations such as: Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, California, Utah, Colorado, and Texas. Some of the roles he has been part of include working as a charge nurse, sales consultant, orthopedic/trauma coordinator, and surgical services manager. He is extensively trained in various computerized charting systems acted as staff resource during two facility electronic documentation conversions. His hobbies include computers, reading novels, grilling BBQ, and bass fishing. He is also an avid Arkansas Razorback football fan!

Kathleen Smith, MS, RN -- Holding Room/ PACU Nurse Educator
Kathleen Smith has her BSN from Indiana University and her MS in Nursing Education from Texas Women’s University. She has been an RN for 10 years with clinical experience in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (Level III) and Pediatric ER (Level I and II). Kathleen’s teaching background includes being an adjunct nursing faculty clinical instructor and a clinical coordinator/ nursing faculty at an associate degree nursing program. She has been living in Tennessee for less than 1 year and has been enjoying the various seasons in the Nashville area.

Quality Corner: Tips for Using Dollars & Sense

**6 Things to Buy at discount in September**

1. Holiday Airfare
2. New cars
3. Landscaping plants
4. Large appliances
5. Bicycles
6. Patio Furniture

**Homemade Fingerpaint**

1/2 cup cornstarch
3 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups cold water
Food coloring

In medium pan, mix all ingredients except coloring together. Cook over low heat 10-15 minutes. Keep stirring until mixture is smooth and thick. After it has thickened, take mixture off stove and let cool.

When cool, divide into storage containers and stir in food coloring as desired. Cover tightly when storing.

**Creative Uses for Coffee Filters**

[You can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree for almost nothing]

- Cover bowls or dishes in microwave
- Clean mirrors and windows (filters are lint free)
- Use between good china for protection
- Use as Taco holders
- Use as sewing backing for embroidery or appliques
- Use to wrap Xmas ornaments for storage
- Use as disposable “snack bowl” for popcorn or chips
- Poke 1 or 2 holes to prevent popsicles from dripping
The Privacy Office at Vanderbilt University Medical Center supports the development and deployment of policies, procedures, and processes to safeguard patient privacy and the privacy and security of patient information. The Privacy Office provides training and consultative services related to VUMC policies, as well as State and Federal laws and regulations, associated with information privacy and security, HIPAA, and the HITECH Act Privacy Regulations.

Visit the Information Privacy and Security Website for more information

VUMC Privacy Office and Information Security Office have teamed to provide answers and guidance for improving the privacy and security of the computing environment, and maintain compliance with HIPAA and other regulatory requirements regarding the creation, processing, storing, and transmission of VUMC Confidential Information including protected health information.

Privacy - On this page you will find sub-pages that address the responsibilities of the Privacy Office. On the subpages you will find information regarding Training, Business Associate Agreements, Identity Theft, Policies, Confidentiality Agreements, Data Breach Information and the Privacy Buzz.

Notice of Privacy Practices - This document outlines how protected health information about an individual may be used and disclosed and under what circumstances specific authorization from the individual may not be required. The Notice of Privacy Practices also describes the HIPAA defined patient rights related to use and disclosure of the individual's health information.

HIPAA at VUMC - The HIPAA Privacy Rule regulates how health care providers and health plans may use and disclose protected health information, in whatever form - on paper, electronic, or oral. The HIPAA Security Rule requires that workforce members adhere to controls and safeguards to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of electronic protected health information. The HIPAA Security Rule requires that workforce members adhere to controls and safeguards to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of electronic protected health information.

Helpful Security Information

Info Security - An effective information security program involves all Work Force Members of the organization. More than technology – it requires each of us to be aware of the risks involved when accessing, using, modifying, and disclosing information. Among this page you will find information concerning File Transfer Application and Encryption.

We appreciate your comments; after you visit our website, please take the Survey on our Home page and tell us what you think.

For more information go to: www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/privacy or e-mail the Privacy Office at privacy.office@vanderbilt.edu

Created by the VUMC Privacy Office (936-3594)
Reminder of Quarterly Multidisciplinary Perioperative Morbidity & Mortality Improvement Conference Dates for 2011:

- Friday, Sept. 30, 2011
- Friday, December 2, 2011

6:30—8:00 a.m. Langford Auditorium
(Breakfast 6:00—6:30 a.m. Langford Lobby)
In this section of the Modus Operandi we would like to honor those faculty and staff members who exemplify the Vanderbilt Medical Center Credo. These employees have “gone the extra mile” in personifying the true ideal of our credo.

_Congratulations to these special faculty and staff!_

**Credo**

- We provide excellence in health care, research and education.
- We treat others as we wish to be treated.
- We continuously evaluate and improve our performance.

**Periop Credo Heroes**

*(Names contributed by Perioperative Managers and Directors)*

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**Credo Hero Award**

_Tina Tomes_

_RN-2, Team Leader MCE PACU_

One of our fairly new nurses, Jessica Hartness, has really stood out to me in her work. Although she is young, and still maturing in her experience and professionalism, she exemplifies what a nurse should be. She always takes exceptional care of her patient, going the extra mile as needed. She constantly questions things that she is unsure of, as well. She is a patient advocate when addressing the physicians, and is willing to put herself in uncomfortable situations if it will help her patient. She also is always one of the first people to always volunteer to help or take over someone’s assignment, without complaining. Her desire to learn stands out not only in the fact that she is going to school, but she reads journals in her free time, and frequently does lit researches when she has questions about meds, disease processes and other pertinent topics. (She was also one of the few who was quick to volunteer to help with our journal club.) It is obvious that her knowledge base has come from having done this on a regular basis, which is unique in a new nurse. One of the things that stands out the most is that she is willing to listen to others of experience when they advise her. But, I have noticed this with other staff and management, as well. Jessica will then immediately apply the information that has been given to her and it shows. All of these are key elements in becoming a mature and exceptional nurse. And because of her desire to improve herself, I believe, she has grown more in just a few months than I have seen probably in any other individual I have worked with in the past three years. Although like the rest of us, she is not perfect, she is attempting to be the best she can be in her profession, and that is all anyone can ask of us.
From TVC: Making those they serve their highest priority:

Ann White               Connie Reardon
Michelle Riggs          Kathy Sloan
Patti Tickle             Sharon Pendleton
Dianne Brewer           Sissy Anderson
Scott Boyle             Angie Smith
Carol Purcell           Megan Stafford
Zanette Dodson          Chad Carnahan
Rachel Poarch           Jackie Fowler

Beki Kazanofski, Patient Care Manager
Oto/Oral Max Face/Ophthalmology/Plastic Surgery

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**PatientTracker-Preop**

**Release Date – Friday, September 30, 2011**

**Glucose Time Addition**

- Documenting the glucose measurement time in PT Preop is now possible. (Figure 1)
- This entry triggers a time sensitive glucose testing notification for anesthesia providers.
- Only earlier and current times may be entered.

![Glucose measurement form](image)

**Figure 1** – The new glucose time entry field is in the red circle. Enter glucose values prior to time entry.
NEW EMPLOYEES IN PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES

September

Elizabeth R. Cothren, RN 2, STU
Juli L. Reynolds, RN 3, Main HR/PACU
Rebekah Sesler, ST 1, FEL OR
Antonio Webb, CCDS, CCDS
Brad Winchester, CT 1, MOR Support

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Annually, more steel in the U.S. is used to make bottle caps than manufacture cars.
- Americans spend an average of 38 hours a year sitting in traffic.
- Coconuts kill about 150 people each year. More than sharks.
- The parachute was invented by DiVinci in 1515.
- Americans are responsible for 1/5 of the world’s garbage annually.
Handwashing Education and Pre-school

As soon as a child is old enough to reach the sink, they are old enough to learn about the importance of handwashing. Many children start their handwashing education at home before attending pre-school. At pre-school, this important lesson needs to be re-taught and reinforced. Considering the dangerous consequences of unwashed pre-school hands, many pre-schools practice handwashing as part of each day’s activities.

Studies have proven that when a systematic approach to handwashing is instituted in pre-schools, there are sharp reduction in ecoli caused illnesses.

For more information about the VUMC hand hygiene program, please visit: [www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/handhygiene](http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/handhygiene). If you have any thoughts on how to improve compliance, please email the hand hygiene committee at [handhygiene@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:handhygiene@vanderbilt.edu). Clean Hands Save Lives!