

# THE SENTINEL WATCH

2605 2nd Ave. Kearney, NE 68847 (ph) 308-865-2706

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



## January 2008

Happy New Year!!!

### SENTINEL HEALTH CARE

WOULD LIKE TO CORDIALLY WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW PHYSICIANS TO KEARNEY.



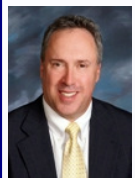
**Mark Buchman, MD**

**Clinic:** Kearney Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic  
**Specialty:** Hand/Orthopedic Surgery  
**History:** Previously worked at The Buchman Hand center in Tulsa, OK. Dr. Buchman's wife is Sandra and their son's name is Eric.



**Tom Pagano, MD**

**Clinic:** Platte Valley Medical Group  
**Specialty:** Cardiology  
**History:** Previously worked at Iowa Heart Center in Council Bluffs, IA.



**Fishel Liberman, MD**

**Clinic:** Good Samaritan Hospital  
**Specialty:** Radiation/Oncology  
**History:** Previously worked at Jefferson City Medical Group in Jefferson City, MO. Moved here with his wife Dr. Patricia Cronin and their 3 children, Isaac, Sarah, and Evelyn.



**Robbie Shaffer, MD**

**Clinic:** Doctor's Anesthesia Group  
**Specialty:** Anesthesiology  
**History:** Recent graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Shaffer is married to Tova Shaffer and they have 2 sons, Quinten and Evan.



**Chinyere Obasi, MD**

**Clinic:** Good Samaritan Specialists  
**Specialty:** Neurosurgery/Spine  
**History:** Previously worked at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Fontana, CA. Dr. Obasi's wife is Sharon and they have two sons Chinyere and Kalu.



**Mark Nielsen, MD**

**Clinic:** Good Samaritan Specialist  
**Specialty:** Cardiothoracic Surgery  
**History:** Previously worked at the Illinois Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, Ltd. in Bloomington, IL. Dr. Nielsen and his wife Kathleen have four children; Aaron, Michael, Kelsey, and Carly.



**Hugo Gonzalez Nieto, MD**

**Clinic:** Richard H. Young Hospital  
**Specialty:** Psychiatrist  
**History:** Previously worked at the Las Vegas Medical Center in Las Vegas, NV. His wife's name is Maria and they have two children, Daniela and Paola.



**Robert Crandall, DO**

**Clinic:** Good Samaritan Hospital  
**Specialty:** Emergency Medicine  
**History:** Originally from Overton, Dr. Crandall was providing ER coverage at multiple hospitals throughout the Midwest region, but now is primarily with GSH. Dr. Crandall prefers the name Brent instead of Robert, his wife's name is Becky and their children are Robert, Andrew, Jack, Thomas, and Georgia.



**Mohsin Khan, MD**

**Clinic:** Good Samaritan Specialist  
**Specialty:** Neurology/Sleep Medicine  
**History:** Previously worked at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL with a specialty of Neurophysiology. Dr. Khan's wife, Neelum Ahmad, MD is currently in her first year Residency at UNMC.



**Stefan Lorincz, DPM**

**Clinic:** Kearney Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic  
**Specialty:** Podiatry  
**History:** Recently completed his Podiatric Medicine and Surgery training at Rush Presbyterian University Medical Center. He and his wife, Cornelia, have three girls, Sophia, Anna, and Rebecca.



**Timothy Ranney, MD**

**Clinic:** Good Samaritan Hospital  
Vice President of Medical Affairs  
**History:** Formerly with Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Dr. Ranney's wife is Marcia, together they have two daughters, Alyssa and Danielle.

**DAVID MCCONNELL, MD**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

**ELAINE MOELLER, RN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## MEDICATION ACCESS PROGRAM (MAP)

Medicare part D participants are experiencing few changes from 2007. Many of the participating pharmaceutical companies are again requiring Medicare part D participants to re-enroll in their Patient Assistance Programs for calendar year 2008.

During the last year the Medication access program has appealed pharmaceutical companies decisions that denied patient applications due to Medicare D participation, private insurance or exceeded the financial guidelines. This appeal process has required preparation of additional appeal letters, attestation forms and hardship forms.

Since July, providers have requested 1085 original medications and 1203 refills this has shown a community savings of \$894,935.99 FYTD.

Providers and clinic staff are encouraged to continue making available the Medication Access Program awareness sheet to patients when they receive a sample or prescription. Patients are encouraged to contact Laura Kreutzer, Supervisor of the Medication Access program at 308-865-2707 ext. 222 with questions.

## CREDENTIALING

**O** The SHC credentialing department has been making many changes in order to complete the credentialing process in a timely manner.

**R** It is no longer necessary for a physician to have privileges at a hospital before being approved in the Sentinel Health Care provider network.

**E** A new provider will be considered for participation prior to date of insurance coverage if there is proof it will be in effect at the start of their practice.

**R** The approval date for Coventry Health Care is now the first Thursday of the month.

A \$50.00 fee will be charged to providers who do not return their re-credentialing application by the date specified on the application.

Clean files (no 'red flags') are reviewed by Dr. McConnell, Medical Director of Sentinel Health Care. They do not need to be held until Sentinel's monthly Medical Advisory Committee meeting.

The above changes have resulted in a more efficient process and the turn around time is approximately 35 days from receipt of a complete application.

Thank you to those who do return re-credentialing applications, letters of reference and other requests to the Sentinel Health Care credentialing office on a timely basis. This is the first step in reducing credentialing time.

*The true test of a first-rate mind is the ability to hold two contradictory ideas at the same time.*

*~F. SCOTT FITZGERALD*

## Physician Recruitment News



We would like to again welcome all of the new physicians that have arrived since the beginning of 2007. We hope you and your family have established a well-built relationship with your surrounding community and wish you the best. Looking forward in 2008, we would like to re-define the financial recruiting assistance process. This information is from a memo, sent by Leigh Bertholf Vice-President of Corporate Responsibility, to all clinic manager on October 30th, 2007.

### Financial Assistance Process

Beginning November 1, 2007 there will be a change to the hospital assisted recruitment process. This change will directly impact how the hospital reimburses physicians and practices for recruitment expenses when a clinic is seeking financial assistance for physicians being recruited, as part of the community needs assessment.

If the clinic is asking for financial assistance with recruiting, please follow these steps:

- Step 1:** Contact Leigh Bertholf, Vice- President of Corporate Responsibility (865-7856) or Tracy Kimberly, Interim Medical Staff Development Administrator (865-7642) to discuss the eligible support available at least 1 week PRIOR to the candidate visit.
- Step 2:** Good Samaritan will provide two brief documents for signature to allow for direct reimbursement from the hospital to the candidate and/or clinic for agreed upon reimbursement.
- Step 3:** Provide detailed receipts for agreed upon expenses. Group meal receipts should include the names of the attendees.
- Step 4:** Continue to communicate physician visits with Sentinel as in the past. This does not change to role that Sentinel has played in helping coordinate physician visits.

## Heart Failure Program Updates

Heart Failure calendars have been distributed to GSHS and will take the place of the Heart Failure teaching booklets. Developed by a team of clinic and hospital staff members, these calendars contain 14 months of educational topics and information to be used for patient education before discharge from the hospital and/or clinics. Inside these calendars, patients can document weights, daily blood pressure and other information each day for the physician to review at the patients next appointment.

### FEBRUARY'S SNEAK-PEAK...

- Information regarding the in-development Heart Failure program
- New Physician Welcoming Party
- "New" Medical Community Physicians Guide Map
- MData - MercMD Survey
- Current news involving the Medication Access Program, Credentialing, and Physician Recruiting

**...STAY TUNED!!!**

