

March 29, 2024

Dear Residents, Families & Staff:

Kathy O'Brien, RN Quality Assurance Manager, is thrilled to share the following. Dunwoody Care Center has been certified by the American Heart Association as a Certified Heart Failure Program Provider. Early in 2023, Dr. Lawrence recommended that Dunwoody pursue the certification program. While we had the frame work in place, the Interdisciplinary Team, including Nursing, Registered Dietitians, Social Services and Therapy worked together to develop and implement patient teaching opportunities regarding Heart Failure. Nursing had been monitoring and managing heart failure symptoms per protocol since 2017. However, the resident education program was not a focus during the pandemic.

The Resident Heart Failure Workbook was updated, and is provided to each resident admitted to the Care Center with a heart failure diagnosis. The nursing team reviews the workbook with each resident. CNAs provide support in obtaining resident weights every morning. The Registered Dietitians review diet specific interventions for weight maintenance, fluid restrictions and sodium consumption. Therapy provides specific therapy programs to assist with energy conservation and breathing techniques. Social Services supports a successful discharge plan with referrals to home care providers' Heart Failure Programs upon discharge. Nursing staff have received an in-depth education of heart failure symptoms, treatments and assessment tools to identify changes in condition for prompt physician notification. Nursing Education is initiated upon hire and is included with annual education programs through Staff Education.

The program was officially implemented in May 2023. As of March 2024, 176 residents participated in the program. A power point program was developed and presented to the American Heart Association by the interdisciplinary team on March 13, 2024. This presentation provided an in-depth review of Dunwoody's Care Center Heart Failure program. Quantitative measures will be provided to the AHA on a quarterly basis with a midcycle review due in September of 2025. Dunwoody Care Center is one of ten facilities in Delaware County that have been awarded this certification.

We are all very grateful to Kathy for her leadership through this process, and we are very proud of the team's accomplishment!

AEDs (automated external defibrillators)

Dunwoody has purchased 2 additional AED units. One AED and box is now placed by the Fitness Center, and the other is in the Nurse Responder Bag on Cedar's East. The 3 initial AEDs are placed to the left of the elevator in the main lobby (facing the elevator doors), right of the reception desk in the Care Center, and there is one in the Nurse Responder Bag in Health & Wellness. Both Nurse Responder Bags now carry AEDs.

COVID

The CDC's most recent message is that anyone 65 or older should get a 2nd COVID booster this spring to provide the best protection. Guidelines are that it must be 4 months since your last dose, or 3 months after a COVID infection. We had our last COVID clinic day at Dunwoody, October 4, 2023. We are scheduling a clinic day for those that are interested in receiving the 2nd recommended dose on Tuesday, April 23rd in the Health and Wellness Center. We will have Phoebe pharmacy on site to administer the vaccine. **We will need to know in advance if you would like to receive a dose.** The pharmacy needs a number in advance, and our deadline to turn in our order is April 12, 2024. The COVID vaccines are not free, like they were previously, and not returnable. The pharmacy reports that Medicare and secondary insurances have been covering the vaccine and only reject payment when the guidelines on timing listed above have not been followed.

Please respond to Kayla's Touchtown message or call the Health and Wellness Center **Monday through Friday between 8am-4pm (610-359-4417) and speak to Sharon or Pat if you would like to reserve yourself a vaccine. The deadline to reserve your booster shot is 10 am on 4/12/24.** Sharon and Pat will be keeping track

of our numbers so please do not call during the evening or on the weekend. We will be sending out a schedule of slotted times in the future when we know how many will be expected.

Currently there are 2 Residential residents and 3 Care Center residents who tested positive for COVID and are on quarantine. No staff members are positive at this time.

First Quarter Facility Cleaning Day 2024

There will be no Residential Housekeeping services on Friday April 5th. All housekeeping personnel will be working to provide a heavy cleaning to many of the common areas and elevators. Residents who are scheduled to receive housekeeping services on Friday April 5th will receive their linens on Thursday April 4th just as if it were a holiday schedule. Thank you for your support in allowing our EVS Department to implement these quarterly cleaning days to help maintain our facility and your home.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is closed on Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday.

Easter Brunch

Easter Brunch reservations are now closed.

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Easter Weekend!

Maureen Casey