



Pathways

Useful and relevant news for your practice

Coastal AHEC
Summer Edition



COASTAL
AHEC
Area Health Education Center

Geriatric Health Literacy Teleconference Series

The University of Texas Medical Branch East Texas Geriatric Education Center is offering a lecture and case study series in Geriatric Health Literacy. The teleconference series will be held the 3rd Wednesday of every other month from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at various locations. The lecture series will include:

September 17, 2008

Introduction to and Assessing Health Literacy

November 19, 2008

Improving Health Promotion-Patient Communication

January 21, 2009

Role of Interdisciplinary Team Panel Discussion
Effects and Barriers Associated with Cultural Diversity

March 18, 2009

Understanding Insurance
Billing: Forms, Forms and More Forms
Health Literacy in Different Settings: Clinics, Nursing Homes,
and Prisons

May 20, 2009

Discussing Difficult Topics-Breaking Bad News
Health Literacy for Caregivers

For a teleconference location nearest you or for further information, please contact Shontel Minor, Program Coordinator: (409) 933-0021; sminor@cahectx.org.

Health Personnel Influenza Vaccination Initiative

The United States Department of Health and Human Services is implementing an initiative for the 2008-2009 influenza vaccination season to improve health care personnel influenza vaccination levels. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommend health care workers get a flu vaccination every year. Infected personnel can:

- Miss a week of work or more
- Spread it to their families, coworkers, patients as well as those most vulnerable such as children, the elderly, and those living with chronic disease.

A tool kit with resources to implement this initiative can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/programs/initiatives/vacctoolkit/index.html>. For more information regarding this initiative, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5502a.htm>.

Medicaid & Medicare Corner

- **Dental Care Initiative-** \$860,000 has been allocated to the Texas legislature to fund training and reimbursement to Medicaid pediatricians to perform limited oral evaluations to children as young as 6 months. Training will begin in August.
- **New rule ensures healthcare access in rural areas-** New changes to rural healthcare clinics will ensure Medicare beneficiaries residing in underserved and rural areas continued access to services.
- **Updated Forms-** The following provider forms have been updated: PCCM Community Health Services Referral Form, Private Pay Agreement, and Physician's Exam Report.

For a complete list of updated forms as well as more information concerning the above topics, visit: www.hhs.state.tx.us/news/release and www.tmlhp.com.

