Reimbursement reduced under TEFRA rules

Hospitals, consumers and industry are going to have to dig even deeper into their own pockets to help pay for the government's medical programs as the health care provisions of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 come into effect. Under TEFRA, costs are not being reduced, but reimbursement is being curtailed.

"What the government is saying with TEFRA is that there is no more money for health care and that they are not going to continue to reimburse hospitals whatever costs they incur," said Steven Davis, a financial analyst in Barnes controller's office.

Such cutbacks are not new, however. "Since Medicare was first started (1965), there has been a steady decrease in the reimbursable allowable costs," said Mr. Davis. The reimbursable allowable costs are not equal to a hospital's actual charges, but rather are determined by a method known as the ratio of cost to charges. This ratio includes direct and indirect costs such as salaries, supplies, overhead and depreciation. "Under TEFRA, we can expect even further cost limitations," said Mr. Davis.

These payment restrictions take two forms: (1) section 223 case limits and (2) target rates. Section 223 case limits place a ceiling on the amount of reimbursement per discharge. Factors such as bed size, number of residents and interns, patient case mix, hospital location and the average cost per discharge of all hospitals were taken into consideration to determine the ceiling. "Fortunately," said Mr. Davis, "Barnes does not exceed the ceiling at this time."

"Basically," said Mr. Davis, "this means that Barnes will receive the same payment whether the patient is hospitalized for two days or 62 days, or whether he receives four lab tests or 40." Medicare patients account for about 42 percent of all admissions," said Mr. Davis, "so TEFRA will affect a substantial segment of the patient population."

The second limiting perspective under TEFRA is the establishment of target rates, which are attempting to slow the cost increases of hospitals. The 1983 target rates are computed by inflating a hospital's 1982 actual cost per discharge per year by approximately 8 percent. (Health care costs nationally are currently increasing at a rate of about 12 percent per year.)

If a hospital keeps its costs below its target rate, the government will reward it by paying the cost incurred plus 50 percent of the difference between the cost and the target rate. If a hospital goes over its target rate, however, the government will pay only the target rate and 25 percent of the difference between the target rate and actual costs. This means that for every Medicare discharge that is below the target rate, the government will reimburse Barnes for 30 cents of every dollar. For each Medicare discharge that exceeds the target rate, Barnes loses 75 cents of each dollar.

Even under TEFRA's restrictions, however, Barnes remains in a solid position financially. "We have enjoyed good management on all levels," said Mr. Davis. "Each department has been working vigorously to keep our costs below the 8 percent inflation rate established by TEFRA." A history of operating on a fiscally sound basis and not borrowing large sums for capital expenditures is also a factor, according to Mr. Davis, and has enabled Barnes to keep its charges and costs at a favorable level in the community and far below those of comparable teaching hospitals.

Many of the implications of TEFRA and other government proposals remain to be seen. "Right now, we have no guarantee that TEFRA will still be in effect next year, or that another proposal will not be enacted," said Mr. Davis. "It is up to all of us to insure that Barnes remains in a good position to meet whatever financial contingencies we are faced with in the future."

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Dr. Joseph Levitt

Dr. Joseph Levitt gets "World Champs" ring

It's "Baseball in St. Lou" time again and this year, Dr. Joseph Levitt, Barnes/WU physician and attending physician for Busch Memorial Stadium, has extra reason to celebrate the St. Louis Cardinals' success. Dr. Levitt, who also serves as Barnes' employee health physician, received a world series championship ring during private ceremonies held before the team's opener April 5.

The 10-carat gold ring is embossed with Dr. Levitt's name and the Redbirds' insignia on one side, with a replica of the world series trophy embossed on the other.

Dr. Levitt has been associated with the football and baseball Cards since 1967, and recently traveled to Florida to help conduct team physicals during the baseball spring training session.

Most of his work takes place behind the scenes, however, as he mans the stadium's first-aid station during every home game, for both teams! Dr. Levitt estimates that he has attended over 1,260 sporting events during the last 16 years.

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1981 Annual Report wins award of excellence

Barnes 1981 Annual Report has received an award of excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators' St. Louis chapter in their annual Bronze Quill competition. The award was made at the organization's monthly dinner meeting on April 26.

This is the second award that the full-color Annual Report has won; it garnered third place honors in the Missouri Muleshoe Awards sponsored by the Missouri Association for Hospital Public Relations. That award was given at the MHA annual convention November 3-5.
it can best be put to use for patients." NMR has already proven effective in diagnosing Multiple Sclerosis and in identifying tumors of the brain and central nervous system.

The special facilities are needed to provide controls over the magnetic field, according to Dr. Evens. Criteria, such as maintaining a certain distance from elevators, television sets, moving automobiles and patient rooms, have to be met, since any electrical activity could interfere with the NMR's sensitive magnetic field and alter its images. Safety equipment and a metal detector will also be installed, Dr. Evens said.

MIR is already planning its next step into NMR research and treatment, with the construction of a second, more expansive facility at the corner of Taylor and Scott, just east of the Washington University School of Dental Medicine. The second NMR facility will house a 15-kilogauss magnet and will be used for research into obtaining images of phosphorus and nitrogen protons. (Currently, radiologists are only able to obtain images of protons from hydrogen ions.)

“We expect WUMC to soon become a leader in several aspects of NMR research and treatment,” said Dr. Evens. Clinical NMR facilities currently exist at about five non-medical centers and hospitals in the United States. The field is rapidly expanding, however, and by next year Dr. Evens estimates that the number of NMR facilities nationwide will jump to 60 or 70.

Patients feel at home with aid of social work

The Barnes Hospital family includes more than 5,000 full-time and part-time employees and volunteers, as well as hundreds of specialty departments. From the admitting clerks, to the volunteers, to the registered nurses who care for patients in the 11 intensive care units, Barnes is a family of first-rate members.

National Hospital Week, observed May 8 through 14, emphasizes the importance of the family in today’s society. As a large family, Barnes provides services that many smaller, less diversified hospitals cannot offer to their patients. Many of these special services are provided through—the department of social work. Under the direction of Evelyn Bonander, social workers help ease the fears and concerns of hundreds of Barnes patients each year.

Judy Warner, one of 26 Barnes social workers, is dedicated to helping patients before, during and after their hospital stays. “Spending time in a hospital is always hard for someone,” said Ms. Warner. “I'm not teaching how to become a perfect parent, but a better parent,” said Mrs. Harden. “I look at the family as a place to produce people who feel good about themselves.”

New parenting class promotes self-esteem

Understanding and nurturing self-esteem in parents and children is the focus of “Positive Parenting: Promoting Growth,” a six-week course sponsored by the department of education and training. The course will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning June 1. Topics include communication skills, creativity, discipline and play. The cost is $80.

Carolyn B. Harden, a former early childhood and elementary school teacher with nearly 20 years of experience, is conducting the course. Mrs. Harden holds a B.S. in education with an emphasis on early childhood from the University of Georgia and is co-author of Developing a Comprehensive Child Development Center. She has been teaching parent effectiveness workshops for four years.

“I’m not teaching how to become a perfect parent, but a better parent,” said Mrs. Harden. “I look at the family as a place to produce people who feel good about themselves.”

For more information or to register, call (314) 454-3563.

Hyperthermia center opens at Barnard

A new hyperthermia research and treatment center opened April 22 at the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital here, thanks in part to donations from the Advertising Federation of St. Louis.

The Advertising Federation, whose membership includes men and women who earn their living in the administrative, creative or production end of advertising, donated the proceeds from their 49th annual Gridiron dinner held April 15 in the Khorrison Room of the Chase-Park Plaza. Since 1945, the Advertising Federation has donated more than $1 million for cancer research and treatment to Barnard.

The hyperthermia center, which was developed by the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, uses extreme heat to kill cancer cells. Hyperthermia treatment is particularly successful in treating cancers of the head, neck and soft tissues.
Free hypertension test open to the public

The Barnes Hospital Auxiliary, in conjunction with the education and training department, is sponsoring a free hypertension (high blood pressure) screening from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, May 19, in the East/West Pavilion lobby. The screening is open to visitors, employees and the general public.

Hypertension occurs when the pressure of the blood within the blood vessel walls becomes abnormally high. Untreated, hypertension can result in heart attack, stroke or kidney disease. Called the “silent killer,” hypertension can progress without any visible warning signals. Although it can affect people of all ages, those who are over 40 years of age, are diabetic, overweight or smoke, or those who have a family history of heart disease, are at a higher risk of developing hypertension.

Hypertension cannot (in most cases) be cured, but it can be controlled through diet, exercise and medication. With treatment, people who have high blood pressure can live active, healthy and normal lives. Nutrition tips and special information regarding salt-free cooking as aids in controlling high blood pressure are available through the dietetics department, 454-3414. For more information regarding the screening, call the volunteer department at 454-3446.

New volunteers part of Red Cross pilot program

Dorothy Smart, Peggy Ford and Mary Kay Monroe are three Red Cross volunteers working at Barnes as part of a pilot program to increase blood donations.

The three visit patients who have received blood or blood products during their hospitalization and ask them to write their friends and relatives to donate blood at the Red Cross' substation, located on the second floor of Barnes.

“We are targeting our appeal for more blood donations to those who understand the need the best,” said Mary Ellen Rosche, blood bank chief technologist. “We’re not asking people to replace blood. We’re simply trying to make them more aware of our existing facilities and of the constant need for blood donations.”

The program is now limited to four patient care areas but will be expanded to other nursing divisions if donations increase, she said.

The blood donor substation is open from noon to 7 p.m., on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and may be reached by taking the elevators by the red carpet information desk on the first floor of Barnes. For assistance to the substation or to make an appointment, call 454-3225.

“Stop Smoking” classes beginning May 26

A series of “Stop Smoking” classes is being offered by the department of education and training from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., beginning Thursday, May 26.

St. Louis psychotherapist Al Barton coordinates the six-week course which features behavior modification techniques, including hypnotherapy, to help participants “kick” the nicotine habit. Cost for the course is $50.

For more information or to register, call 454-3563.
Lights, camera, action—the 5 o’clock news deadline is rapidly approaching and Barnes is once again “in the news.” This time, a local television station’s medical reporter is interviewing a Barnes/WU cardiologist on a new breakthrough in heart care. Earlier, area newspapers called to check on the conditions of three burn victims flying in from an outstate hospital. Tomorrow, a telephone interview between a hospital administrator and a national magazine reporter is scheduled to discuss implications of the federal government’s cutbacks in Medicare payments.

Locally, regionally, or nationally, Barnes is news. Consistently ranked as one of the top ten hospitals in the country and long noted for its medical expertise and clinical research in such specialty areas as diabetes, cancer and cardiology, Barnes has become an information resource center for both the media and the community.

On a daily basis, Barnes is contacted for information on new procedures and treatments, seasonal health tips such as dealing with allergies or sunburn and health care issues such as “right to die with dignity” policies, cost-containment or the ethics involved with Dr. Barney Clark’s artificial heart.

Recently, for example, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat contacted the hospital for background information on the circumcision of male infants for a March 27 story on men’s rights. Russian scientists’ research into hastening infant development by delivering babies under water prompted an...
The media spotlight shone on Jimmy Loines of plant engineering and Brooks Pumphrey of dispatch when the Barnes Hospital Society honored them with its first Awards of Merit last May.

Birthing rooms and other alternatives to the traditional labor and delivery room setting were the subjects of a KSDK-TV interview between reporter Kathy Leonard and Dr. James Warren, Barnes/WU obstetrician-gynecologist-in-chief.

Barnes talks . . .

other call to Barnes to verify authenticity for an April 3 article titled "Designing 'Super Kids for Russia."

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the presidential commission on ethical problems in medicine, the use of liver pumps in treating cancer and the non-invasive blood flow doppler in diagnosing heart disease are just some of the topics that have made national headlines and for which reporters turned to Barnes for interviews that clarified these new developments for the public.

Recent community and outstate requests for information have included such diverse subjects as chymopapain (a drug used to non-surgically treat herniated or "slipped" discs), advances in care for heart attack victims, bone marrow transplants for treating leukemia and other cancers and research into a possible cure for diabetes.

Often, medical breakthroughs that are heralded on such programs as "60 Minutes," "20-20," and "PM Magazine" result in phone calls to Barnes for more details and referral information. Such inquiries have come from within the St. Louis area and as far away as Oklahoma and Florida.

As a teaching hospital, as well as one of the nation's top ten hospitals, Barnes has long considered educating the public to be part of its mission. News outlets have in recent years added another avenue for doing this. One TV segment on the 6 o'clock news explaining breast self-ex-

amination reaches far more people than a year's classes could hope to reach, for example. Similarly, newspaper stories can help hospitals explain the complicated problems of providing adequate care for patients who cannot pay. Radio health segments done at Barnes that warn viewers to use protective eyewear for racquetball, to avoid mixing medications and alcohol, or to be aware of the dangers of high blood pressure give the hospital an opportunity to pass along information that can help people maintain their health by avoiding preventable sickness or injury. The outcome of this ongoing exchange of knowledge is a better informed public who is then able to make wise decisions concerning health care.

Many of the stories completed at Barnes win national awards for their reporters. KMOX-TV reporter Al Wiman's series on cancer, for example, was commended by the American Cancer Society. Here he interviews a maternity patient and her husband for a segment on high risk pregnancy.
Media spotlight

Highlights of the media’s coverage of Barnes Hospital during the last month are as follows. Readers desiring a photocopy of newspaper or magazine articles about Barnes should contact the public relations department at (314) 454-3515.

Television

Dr. Ronald Burde, Barnes/WU ophthalmologist, was interviewed by KSDK-TV reporter John Roedel about outpatient surgery. The segment aired April 15.

Pacemaker technology and holter monitors were discussed by Dr. Joseph Ruwitch, Barnes/WU cardiologist, for KTVL-TV’s medical reporter, Diana Davis. The story aired on April 1.

Face-craft, which combines plastic surgery with advances in computed radiology, was the subject of an interview of Drs. Jeffrey Marsh, Barnes/WU plastic surgeon, and Michael Vannier, Barnes/WU radiologist, for the “Discover: The World of Science” program. The segment aired nationally during the month of April and on cable TV here through WGN in Chicago.

Radio

The Barnes Auxiliary received KMOX-radio’s salute on April 15 for their efforts in supporting the hospital and their recent $312,958 donation for construction of new emergency department facilities. Bob Hardy and Bill Wilkinson discussed the Auxiliary’s work and played their morning “march” in their honor.

Chymopapain, a drug recently approved by the FDA that is used to non-surgically treat herniated or “slipped” discs, available here, was the subject of a KMOX radio segment on April 11.

Print

Daisy Shepard, public relations director, was interviewed for an article on outpatient surgery. She noted that outpatient surgery is nothing new at Barnes and pointed out the advantages of having outpatient surgery performed in the traditional hospital setting where needed facilities are on hand in case of an emergency. The article appeared in the April 18-24 issue of the St. Louis Business Journal.

The Auxiliary also received kudos from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat’s Jerry Berger in his April 16-17 column.

Graduates of Barnes School of Nurse Anesthesia were featured in the April 15 edition of the West End Word.

Hospital notes

The following are reported on staff: Dr. Howard W. Schnaper, assistant pediatrician, effective September 1, 1982; Drs. J. Michael Conoyier and Richard E. Hayden, assistant otolaryngologists, effective February 1, 1983; Dr. Jerome D. Sachar, assistant obstetrician/gynecologist, effective July 1, 1983, and Dr. Bernard L. Shore, assistant physician, effective July 1, 1983.

Dr. H. Mitchell Perry, Jr., Barnes/WU cardiologist, is serving as a consultant on hypertension to the Ministry of Public Health in Kuwait. Dr. Perry, who has been director of the Barnes hypertension clinic since 1964, will be developing a hypertension control program there.

Daisy Shepard, public relations director, will be a guest speaker for the Hospital Public Relations Society of Metro St. Louis’ “Show and Tell Seminar” on May 20 at the Holiday Inn—Riverfront. Mrs. Shepard’s topic is “Communicating in a Crisis.”

New phones, numbers coming to Barnes/WUMS

Over the next four months, the various departments, nursing divisions, doctors’ offices and patient rooms at Barnes will be receiving new touch-tone telephones, as well as new telephone numbers beginning with the exchange “362.” The changes, part of the two new Custom Dimension 2000 telephone systems encompassing Barnes and the Washington University School of Medicine, are scheduled for completion in early September.

As the telephones are installed and the numbers are changed, outside callers who dial an old Barnes number will automatically be transferred to the new number. In September, after all of the new numbers have been incorporated, callers dialing one of the old “454” numbers will be advised of the new number by a recording.

Pat Lanigan, telecommunications manager, feels that the adoption of the new telephone system will be very beneficial for everyone at Barnes. “The new system,” he said, “is being installed because of its computerized base, which offers many more features than the present Centrex system.”

One difference between the new and old systems is that an in-house caller must now dial five digits to reach another in-house station. Formerly, he needed to dial only four digits. All in-house extensions will now begin with the number “2.” When dialed, the “2” acts as a signal for the computer, indicating that this is an in-house call. The addition of the “2” before each extension also means that the last four digits of the phone number may begin with any number between 0 and 9. Previously, the numbers 0, 9 and 7 could not be used because they transferred the caller to the operator, an outside line or a long-distance WATS line.

In addition to the effects the new telephone numbers have on in-house dialing, the change will affect all printed materials that include Barnes telephone numbers. Letterhead stationery, note pads, business cards, pamphlets and brochures will need to be changed to include the new phone numbers.

Barnes receives grant for exercise course

Barnes has received a $2,500 grant for the proposed installation of an exercise course in Hudlin Park, which is located just south of the hospital. The grant, from the Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco, California, would cover part of the approximately $7,000 needed for the track’s completion.

The new “Gamesfield Twenty-Station Jogging Course” would be built in the park behind the existing tennis courts, following the planned expansion of the subsurface parking facilities. The track is scientifically designed to promote cardiovascular conditioning, and includes twenty separate exercise stations. Each station provides the participant with either a warm-up, conditioning or a cool-down exercise.

Construction of the track is contingent on construction to expand the hospital’s subsurface garage, located beneath the park. The first approval for the garage expansion recently came from the city’s Heritage and Urban Design Committee.

Dr. Joseph Ogura

Dr. Joseph Ogura, former Barnes otolaryngologist-in-chief, died on April 14, here, of an apparent heart attack. He was 68 years old.

A specialist in head, neck and throat cancer surgery, Dr. Ogura was the first American to reconstruct an artificial larynx in a human following its surgical removal. He also developed a special surgical procedure for treating throat cancer that leaves part of one of the two vocal cords intact, thus saving much of the organ’s use for speech and swallowing. Previously, surgeons had removed the larynx, vocal cords and even parts of the tongue, pharynx and esophagus. Most of the surgeons now performing this type of surgery have been trained by Dr. Ogura.

Dr. Ogura also was one of only three men to receive otolaryngology’s “triple crown”—the DeRoanlades Gold Medal for distinguished career achievement and total contributions, the Casselberry award for his work in nasopulmonary mechanics and the Newcomb award for his accomplishments in laryngeal research.

Dr. Ogura served his residency in otolaryngology at Barnes and had been on the Barnes/WU staff since 1948. He retired from his position as otolaryngologist-in-chief and head of the WUMS department of otolaryngology in July, 1982, but remained on staff until his death.

Approximately 600 people were screened for hypertension and tested for pulmonary function at two different Centerre Bank locations during the month of April. Barnes was April customer of the month for Centerre.
Barnes Annual Fund

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Barnes Hospital 18300
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Rosa Lee Conner

IN HONOR OF:
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Barnes Hospital 18300
Staff
Lena Wennekener
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M/M Robert E. Frank
M/M Sid Levinson
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M/M Philip L. Moss
Birthday of Dicke Prins
Millie and Dick Prager
Birthday of Fred
Reynolds, M.D.
D/M Harold C. Cutler
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Brueggenhagen
Barnes Hospital Auxiliary
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Recovery of Dr. Morris
Davidson
Tom and Bert Rasmusson
Recovery of Krasser
M/M Star P. Kolker
Recovery of George Levit
Mrs. M. Harris

Father of Rita Wellinghoff
Barnes Hospital 18300
Staff

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Paul R. Bonger
Gus A. Baur
Albert Bauer
Faye O. Bagent
Eleanor L. Begley
William E. Barnes
Margaret and Joe Ax
Katherine Steele
John F. Birdsong
Edward H. Brandt
Paul R. Bonger
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Gifts
(continued from page 7)

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Margaret R. Turner
Helen L. Wheeler
Carl Zaksas

IN MEMORY OF:
Dr. Heinz Heffner
Mary B. Culbertson
Fred Spears
Irma Spears
IN HONOR OF:
Dr. Bruce Waltz
Irma Spears

IN MEMORY OF:
Dr. Al Marks
Nancy R. Lasky

IN MEMORY OF:
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Dory and Julie Silver

Charlene V. Byrd

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