

# Network News

FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN THE VCHCP PROVIDERNETWORK

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## New Developments!

### VCHCP Docs Get High Marks for Rx Prescribing Practices!

In a recent review of VCHCP's prescription medication costs and utilization for the first 2 quarters of 2010 by Express-Scripts, our Pharmacy Benefit Manager, it was pointed out that the percent of generic drugs prescribed by our physicians increased from 76% to over 78%. This compares to a 72% average for all their clients. The 2% increase amounted to a savings to VCHCP in excess of \$82,000!

### Follow-Up On Epocrates

For those of you that were interested in having VCHCP's drug Blackberry, compatible that you were download it web site.



formulary on your iPhone, or other device, we hope able to successfully from the Epocrates

### Epocrates Announcement

Epocrates recently announced that it has acquired Modality, Inc., based in North Carolina. Per Epocrates, "Modality is a premier developer of digital learning, assessment, training and reference applications for Apple mobile devices. The acquisition will expand Epocrates' product portfolio and accelerate the delivery of innovative clinical solutions for healthcare professionals."

## Important Announcement!! More Specialty Services to be Added to Direct Referral List

As is currently the case with DERMATOLOGY AND OPHTHOMOLOGY, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of the new

year, prior authorization by VCHCP will no longer be required of PCPs to refer patients to these additional specialties:

However, the specialist providers DO want the patient to present a written REFERRAL from their PCP when they arrive for their appointment so they will know exactly why the patient has been referred.

## Providers in the News

### New to the Network:

Carrie Vey, MD, Family Practice Family Care Center in Ventura eff. mid-July

Ksenija Peharda, MD, Family Practice at Las Islas FMG in Oxnard

Lyudmyla Gareys MD, Family Practice at Moorpark Family Medical Clinic

Sun Moon Lee, MD, Pediatrician at Pediatric Diagnostic Center in Ventura eff. July 1<sup>st</sup>

Armin Alavi, MD, ENT at Anacapa Surgical Associates in Ventura

Cynthia Coggins, PA, joining Genitourinary Clinic in Ventura

Chetan Zithal Gondha, MD, joining Island View Gastroenterology in Ventura eff. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Minako Watabe, MD, OB/GYN at Santa Paula Hospital Clinic eff. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

Paul Silverman, MD, Urology, now working at the West Ventura Clinic

### Change of Offices:

William Starr, MD, has moved from Magnolia Clinic to Las Islas Surgical Specialty Center eff. July

### Physicians No Longer In Our Network:

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Sarah Mowry, MD, ENT left Anacapa Surgical Associates June 30<sup>th</sup>

William Klope, MD, Urologist has left the GU Clinic

Ran Jia, MD, IM has left Las Islas Clinic

Melinda Lacerna, MD, Plastic Surgery has left Magnolia Specialty Clinic

Khristina Mueller, MD, Family Practice, left Moorpark Clinic

Frank Ennes, MD, Family Practice has left Sierra Vista

Archana Petkar, MD, Family Practice has left Conejo Valley CMG



## VCMC Clinics Relocate to New On-Campus Building

October and November were busy months for those clinics and services which relocated to the new medical services building located on the Ventura County Medical Center campus. First to move in were the Anacapa Surgery Medical Group and the VCMC Residency program in early October. A week later the Pediatric Diagnostic Center, the Academic Family Medicine Center and Urology clinic relocated. After that, Hematology/Oncology & Pediatric Oncology relocated. In early November, the VCMC Women's Clinic opened in the new facility, and, last but not least, Immunology relocated the following week.

## From the Medical Director

C. Albert Reeves, M.D.

HPV vaccine has recently been approved by ACIP for use in males 9 - 26 years old. However, ACIP has not recommended the vaccine for general use in this population. The Plan's Utilization Management Committee has approved the policy that the Plan will not cover HPV Vaccine for routine immunization of males 9 - 26 years old. The vaccine will be approved for those members who are at high risk of complications from the Human Papillomavirus. For more information, please see the MMWR Weekly Report of May 28, 2010.

## Medical News

### Recommendations for Pertussis Vaccinations Broadened

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has broadened its recommendations for who should be vaccinated for pertussis (whooping cough) in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. The CDPH is now recommending that adults over age 64 get vaccinated along with women of child-bearing age and anyone who may have contact with a pregnant woman or infant. "We are urging health providers to broaden their use of the pertussis vaccine and we are urging Californians to take the simple step of getting vaccinated to prevent pertussis," said the CDPH's Gilberto Chavez, MD.

The CDPH declared whooping cough an epidemic in the state in June of 2010 and has recorded 1,496 cases as of July 13.

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## Drugs in the News

### Drugs New to VCHCP Step Therapy Program

Because of the increasingly high cost of Brand-name drugs and availability of generic alternatives, the following drugs now have a Step Therapy requirement:

Class	Brand	Generic Alt.
Nasal Steroids	Nasonex	fluticasone spray
Sed. Hypnotics	Lunesta Ambien CR	zolpidem, <u>or</u> zaleplon
Anti-Diabetics	Actos, Avandia Exubera	metformin <u>or</u> sulfonylureas
Non-Sedating Antihistamines	Clarinet/D	fexofenadine, <u>or</u> loratadine/d, <u>or</u> cetirizine hcl

prescribing information for Plavix(r) (clopidogrel). The boxed warning alerts patients and healthcare professionals that people who are poor metabolizers cannot effectively convert Plavix to its active form. As a result, patients may not receive the full benefit of the platelet inhibitor and may remain at risk for heart attack, stroke and cardiovascular death.

### Second "Triptan" To Lose Patent Protection

Amerge (naratriptan) joins Imitrex as now available in generic form. Amerge is approved for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults. The generics are now available as 1mg and 2.5mg tablets.

### Acne Drug Solodyn Now Requires Prior Auth

Solodyn, of the drug class Tetracycline, is an extended release form of the generic minocycline hydrochloride, which is used to treat bacterial infection, including acne. However, it is not recommended for use as a "first line" therapy, and will only be approved by VCHCP after the patient has failed a 90-day period of treatment using generic minocycline.

### First Generic To Lovenox Available

Aug. 17, 2010 – Last month U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first generic to sanofi-aventis' Lovenox(r) (enoxaparin sodium), an injectable anti-coagulant commonly used to prevent deep vein thrombosis (DVTs). FDA has determined that this drug is interchangeable with brand Lovenox. The generic was developed under a collaboration agreement between Sandoz and Momenta. According to Sandoz, shipments of its generic enoxaparin have already begun. Pricing information is not known at this time.

### Boxed Warning Added to Plavix's Label

A new boxed warning has been added to the

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