Medical Malpractice Insurance Crisis Worsening - How You Can Help

Despite a recent reform effort in this market by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the cost of medical malpractice insurance for Jefferson Hospital and its physicians continues to skyrocket. Already critically high, costs are expected to nearly double beginning July 1, 2003.

The combined costs to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH) and Jefferson University Physicians (JUP) are expected to total $31 million by June 30, and of fiscal year 2002. The total is expected to soar to at least $49 million, and possibly as high as $59 million by June 30, 2003. See chart.

Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania insurance reform bill signed into law in March will not help ease the crisis nearly enough.

"While the new law is a start, far more relief will be needed. The projected costs to Jefferson alone are more than the total annual projected costs to Jefferson alone in laboratory sciences; and seven post-

the hospital’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

"The new law targets $40 million each year for 10 years to reduce malpractice insurance costs of hospitals and certain specialties, e.g., obstetricians, gynecologists, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons and others. It is hard to view this legislation as offering significant relief for the escalating costs of all hospitals in Pennsylvania."

New Law Omits Many Doctors Further, large numbers of physicians will not benefit at all from the new law since it does not apply to such practices as family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

To date, TJUH and JUP have lost 15 physicians who have relocated, retired or taken leaves of absence because of high insurance costs. As costs spiral, it’s also becoming harder and harder to find and keep insurance companies to write medical malpractice insurance. In the last six months alone, at least five companies have withdrawn from the malpractice market or gone out of business, limiting Jefferson physicians’ ability to obtain insurance.

"Unless new remedies are found quickly, it is clear this issue is reaching crisis proportions for every hospital in Pennsylvania," Mr. Lewis warns.

"We are working hard for reform, but we can’t do it alone. We need your help so that we are able to continue to deliver the high quality healthcare services that our community deserves and expects."

How You Can Help Mr. Lewis asks all employees and medical staff and employees to contact their elected officials.

Don’t know your elected officials? We’ll help you find them! On the web, go to www.vote-smart.org/index.phtml

Jefferson College of Health Professions Holding May 17 Commencement at Kimmel Center for Performing Arts

Thomas Jefferson University will award an honorary doctoral degree to Leslie Anne Miller, attorney and chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Performing Arts Center, at the Commencement Exercises of Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP) at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) on Friday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

The Class of 2002 totals 254 graduates, including 240 bachelor of science degree recipients in the disciplines of nursing, occupational therapy, diagnostic imaging and laboratory sciences; seven post-baccalaureate certificate recipients in laboratory sciences; and seven associate degree graduates. Also included in the totals are physical therapy students who will complete their combined BS-MS degree program during this summer.

Douglas MacMaster Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, TJU, will present Leslie Anne Miller, a partner and shareholder in the law firm McKissick and Hoffman, P.C., for the Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

Ms. Miller has received many appointments to the boards of several educational and cultural institutions.

The setting for JCHP’s commencement exercises, this year is a fitting tribute to Ms. Miller’s accomplishments. She was a driving force in overseeing final preparations for the December 2001 opening of the Kimmel Center and completing the $265 million Campaign to Build the Kimmel Center.

University President Paul C. Bruecker, M.D., will confer the student degrees. JCHP Acting Dean James E. Erdmann, PhD., will address students and their families and present the JCHP Student Life Award, Janice Bursick, PhD, OTR/L, Chairman and Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, will serve as the Grand Marshal.

University Honors Dorrance ‘Dodo’ H. Hamilton

The Jefferson community honored Mrs. Dorrance ‘Dodo’ H. Hamilton by presenting her portrait to the University. Douglas MacMaster Jr., Esq., Chairman of the University Board of Trustees, introduced Mrs. Hamilton.

An excerpt of his remarks:

“Dodo, you are one of Jefferson’s most ardant and steadfast supporters. You constantly demonstrate your faith in the University and affection for the Hospital. I thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees for all that you have given to us in time, wisdom, talent and resources.”

In accepting Mrs. Hamilton’s portrait for the University, Paul C. Bruecker, MD, University President said it all.

“Mrs. Hamilton is an exceptional person who has given a great deal to family, community and Jefferson. Your vision and strength of purpose have created a much better community for all of us to live in. “You are truly an exceptional person who has given a great deal to family, community and Jefferson. Your vision and strength of purpose have created a much better community for all of us to live in. “You are truly an exceptional person who has given a great deal to family, community and Jefferson. Your vision and strength of purpose have created a much better community for all of us to live in.”

University Chancellor and President Paul C. Bruecker, M.D. presented the portrait to Mrs. Hamilton.

How You Can Help

To find your zip+4:

• Click on “Zip Code Lookup” in the left-hand column to find your zip+4.

• Enter your delivery address, city, state and 5-digit zip code.

• Click on “Process.”

• Your address, complete with your zip+4 will appear to the right.

How to find your elected officials:

• Once you find your zip+4, go back to the left-hand column.

• Under the section titled “Find your candidates and elected officials,” enter your zip+4 and click on “GO.”

• Your elected officials will appear as you scroll down the right column.

• When you click on any one of their names, more detailed information about them, as well as their email and district office address, will appear.

If you do not have access to the web, please call 1-800-JEFF-NOW and a representative will find your elected officials for you. All you need to do is provide them with your address.

In This Issue:

Call 5-SAFE – Your Line for Safety Issues 2

Guess Who’s Coming to Jefferson...? 2

A Gift of Healing Comes Full Circle 3
Help Make Philly Mercury-Free

Following last year’s successful effort, Jefferson will again participate in a program organized by the Women’s Health and Environmental Network (WHEN) in conjunction with the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council. The Mercury-Free Philadelphia Campaign 2002 features a “Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange Program.” Help make your home “Mercury Free” by participating.

A staff and employees, as well as community members, are encouraged to bring their thermometers from their home medicine cabinets to the designated drop-off site and receive mercury-free replacements, while supplies last. Please place your thermometer in zip-lock plastic bag when transporting.

Drop-off Site and Hours at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

• G Gibson Building, 11th Street entrance
  • Monday May 6, through Friday, May 10 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hospital Ranked Among Top in Nation by AARP’s Modern Maturity

In yet another testament to the hospital’s reputation for safety, innovation and medical excellence, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has been ranked among “The Top Hospitals in America” by Modern Maturity, AARP’s magazine for people over 50.

The list was compiled through Consumers’ Checkbook, a magazine for people over 50.

Director of the Division of Gynecological Oncology, Jefferson University Hospital, John A. Carlson, MD, is looking to add to our volunteer team. Why not suggest volunteering to someone you know? Adults are placed year-round. The summer teen program starts soon. Please call Volunteer Services at 215-955-6222 for more information.

“What's for Lunch? Call 5-FOOD

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has teamed up to make reporting safety issues more convenient and to help keep employee and patient safety “top of mind.”

Now, you can address employee safety issues as well as patient safety issues by calling one easy-to-remember number: 5-SAFE (2723).

Call 5-SAFE will you receive the following instructions:

1. This call involves an employee injury or an employee safety concern, press 1. For an issue involving patient safety, press 2.
2. 5-SAFE now permits 24-hour a day reporting of employee and patient safety issues. Whatever your shift, employees can help keep Jefferson safe for employees and patients. The sooner an unsafe condition or injury is reported, the sooner it can be remedied.
3. Employee Accidents or Safety Concerns All employees are encouraged to call 5-SAFE to report to Environmental Health and Safety any employee work-related accident, injury or safety concern or deficiency, such as a fall, needlestick, biohazardous exposure, chemical exposure, or an illness (i.e., contact dermatitis). The caller should leave the following information:
   • his or her name and telephone number
   • the name of the injured employee and department
   • a detailed description of the accident or safety concern
   • in addition to calling the hotline, the employee and his or her supervisor should complete an Employee Accident Report (Form WO55-100) which is available from Standard Register.

Patient Safety Issues Employees should call 5-SAFE to report any risk management any adverse event, near miss or any unusual, unplanned occurrence that is not consistent with the routine operation of the hospital or routine care of a patient, such as a patient fall, medication error or a problem related to a test or procedure.

The caller should leave the following information:

• name and telephone number
• date, time and location where the event was observed
• detailed description of the patient safety issue

In addition to reporting the event, an incident report is to be completed as defined in policy #171.02.

Listening to Employer Feedback

Creating the Patient Safety Line reporting option on 5-SAFE — an employee-focused suggestion — is a step forward in Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals’ commitment to creating an environment that encourages error identification, event reporting, and prevention of recurrences.

Bruce Fenderson, PhD, Appointed to USMLE Test Committee

Bruce A. Fenderson, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), has been appointed to the Cell and Developmental Biology Test of the USMLE 1-step Test Committee. Dr. Fenderson will join other members of the Cell and Developmental Biology Test of the USMLE 1-step Test Committee.

Gerald J. Heribson, MD Receives AEMM Distinguished Physician Award

Gerald J. Heribson, MD, Professor of Family Medicine and Rehabilitation, has received the 2002 Distinguished Physician Award from the American Association of Electrodagnostic Medicine (AEMM). An AEMM member since 1974, Dr. Heribson has been honored for his years of distinguished service as a clinical investigator.

Dr. Heribson has served as AEMM’s Secretary, Chairmen of the AEMM Board of Directors, and Treasurer. He has lectured extensively both nationally and internationally.

JeffNEWS May 1, 2002

Guess Who’s Coming to Philadelphia . . .

Famous Guests Visiting Jefferson

Watch for more information in June JeffNEWS.

Save the date to meet our guests - June 7, 2002, 3 to 5 p.m.
Jefferson College of Graduate Studies Again Hosting National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) is again planning to host on campus this summer more than 120 selected high-school students from around the country for the fifth annual National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) on Medicine.

Each year, the highly successful event is organized by Leonard M. Rosenberg, PhD, Assistant Dean, JCGS, and a graduate student specially selected to be Jefferson’s NYLF Site Coordinator. The 2001 Site Coordinator was Haleesa Hunt, PhD candidate, JCGS, 2001 and 2002 MEF Site Coordinator.