

NPR MONTHLY RECAP!

February 2010



BELATED HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY NPRS & FACILITY STAFF CONTACTS!



A big thank you to everyone who joined us on our monthly update call this month! In case you missed it, here's a recap of what we talked about!

Immunization Awareness

As kidney patients, it is very important to protect yourself from various illnesses by receiving vaccinations recommended by your doctor. It is also important to share this information with other patients in your treatment facility.

- Influenza Vaccination

The CDC recommends a yearly seasonal flu vaccine as the first and foremost important step in protecting against seasonal flu. While there are many different flu viruses, the seasonal flu vaccine protects against the three flu viruses research suggests will be most common. The vaccine can protect you from getting sick from these three viruses or it can make your illness milder if you get a flu virus that is related to those in the vaccine.

- Pneumococcal Vaccination

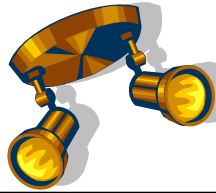
Treatment of pneumococcal infections with penicillin and other drugs used to be more effective. But some strains of the disease have become resistant to these drugs. This makes prevention of the disease, through vaccination, even more important. Pneumococcal vaccine protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria, including those most likely to cause serious disease.

- Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B vaccine can prevent hepatitis B, and the serious consequences of HBV infection, including liver cancer and cirrhosis. Routine hepatitis B vaccination of U.S. children began in 1991. Since then, the reported incidence of acute hepatitis B among children and adolescents has dropped by more than 95% – and by 75% in all age groups. Hepatitis B vaccine is made from a part of the hepatitis B virus. It cannot cause HBV infection. Hepatitis B vaccine is usually given as **a series of 3 or 4 shots**. This vaccine series gives long-term protection from HBV infection, possibly lifelong.

Information from the CDC Web site www.cdc.gov

NPR Facility



SPOTLIGHT!



NPR Jo Shuler and her social worker, Lynda Osborn, from Oklahoma City, pose by the NPR "Meet & Greet" table. Jo introduced herself as the NPR to patients and family members coming in and out of the unit. She also served goodies. Way to go Jo & Lynda!

NPR Kevin Raymo in Alexandria, LA decorated his NPR bulletin board in a colorful Mardi Gras theme to draw patients and family members to read the educational materials. Nice job, Kevin!

