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RESOURCE
DIRECTORY**

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*Hospice by the
Sea Wins 2010
Caregiver
Friendly Award
from Today's
Caregiver
Magazine*

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REAL ESTATE



Michael A. Noto

The Future of Medical Office Buildings

BY MICHAEL A. NOTO

Over the next few years healthcare reform and its effect on healthcare systems will put medical office use in high demand.

More than 46 million Americans are currently without health insurance coverage. Attributing factors of rising healthcare costs and lack of access have forced many individuals to forgo preventative care or early diagnosis and, instead, to wait until the ailment had become acute. The recently passed healthcare reform package aims to reduce these costs and increase the health insurance coverage rate from 84 to 95 percent of the population. With costs declining and access to healthcare expanding, the result will be a major surge in the use of primary and specialty care physicians, the first stop on the road to well being.

This demand will no doubt foster a need for additional medical professionals which means a need for additional medical office space. Studies have indicated that, when viewed from the perspective of office space required per covered individual, the passage of healthcare reform would require anywhere from 25 million to 61 million square feet of medical office space.

Medical office buildings will play a vital role in the delivery of medical serv-

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Floods, Funnels, and Forecasts ... Disaster Emergency Plan for All Emergencies

BY PAT BYRNES

Today, HospiceCare of SE Florida has to think in terms of all types of emergencies. In Florida, hurricanes used to be the only emergency/disaster we considered, however, since 9-11 that has changed and changed dramatically.

While our patients and their families are important, of equal importance are our staff and their families. So all the preparations we do for our patients and families should be done by ourselves and our families. These are the members of our organization who can implement our emergency/disaster response plan and de-activate the plan.

One member of the senior management staff is sufficient to start the plan in action. Generally, it is a consensus of several, or all, of the members. The Operations Team oversees the needs and evacuation of patients as well as the resumption of regular operations when the all clear has been sounded.

HospiceCare Senior Management will receive information and warnings requiring the implementation of the emergency plan from the television, Internet, radio, members of the Safety Committee, or other staff members. Communication is of the

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Pat Byrnes

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Dian Backoff

When There's a Serious Illness, There's No Place Like Home

BY DIAN BACKOFF

The diagnosis of a terminal illness brings with it a host of questions, fears and concerns: "Will I be able to handle the pain?" "How will my family care for me?" "How can I afford quality end-of-life care?" And the question we hear most frequently: "Can I stay at home?"

Faced with a life-limiting prognosis, some 90 percent of patients prefer to remain in their homes, using the bed they know, surrounded by people they love, continuing the routines that make them comfortable. Whether they live in their family home, an adult living community or a nursing home, they want to age - and die - in place.

For terminally ill patients, hospice makes that possible. Hospice patients are cared for by an interdisciplinary team of hospice experts, including a physician, nurses, hospice aides, social workers, chaplains and volunteers who provide medical care, spiritual, social and emotional support to terminally ill patients and their families.

"Hospice care typically is provided in a patient's home. This allows the patient to stay in a familiar setting surrounded by family and friends," says Patty Perry,

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Medical Homes and Older Adults

BY NANCY BORKOWSKI, DBA, CPA, FACHE



Nancy Borkowski

In *South Florida Hospital News and Healthcare Reports* July 2009 issue, we discussed the various definitions and components of the term medical homes. Although we would know a medical home if we experienced it, a generally accepted definition has not yet been determined (see sidebar on page 24). With passing of the historic Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010, we anticipate that the industry will experience more momentum in the development of medical homes as it copes with the expected increase in demand for services as coverage expands for thirty-two million more Americans and the coming of age of the baby-boomers. The recently passed health reform legislation has given the secretary of health and human services broad authority to launch new pilot

projects based on the patient-centered medical home concept, which is expected to be accomplished under the auspices of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The urgency to change how health care is delivered cannot be understated with national health spending expected to grow from \$2.2 trillion in 2007 to \$4.3 trillion in 2017 (Keehan, et al., 2008). Contributing to this expected growth is the need of health services by older people. Next year, in 2011, the first cohort of the American "baby boom" generation - those born between 1945 and 1966 - will reach the age of sixty-five.

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Ready When the Time Comes Volunteer Program Helps South Florida Prepare for Hurricane Season

While many people want to help during hurricane or other disaster relief efforts, having the right training is essential to an effective response. Ready When the Time Comes, a program from the American Red Cross and facilities maintenance supplier Grainger, ensures that volunteers are trained and ready to assist before a disaster strikes in South Florida.

On Saturday, June 5, the local Red Cross will officially launch its Ready When the Time Comes program with employees from national founding sponsor Grainger and local lead sponsor Credit Suisse participating in a full-scale shelter simulation.

"June is the beginning of hurricane season and while South Florida was spared a direct hit during the past few years, some residents have been lulled into a false sense of security. Now is the time to prepare, long before any storm threatens our community," said Sam Tidwell, CEO of the American Red Cross South Florida Region. "The American Red Cross is ready around the clock to provide a safe place for our neighbors. And in times of great need, we count on partners like our Ready When the Time Comes volunteers to help us provide vital relief services."

Ready When the Time Comes allows the Red Cross to recruit and train volunteers from local companies and organizations so they can be mobilized quickly. Program volunteers receive specialized training in crucial disaster response, such as shelter operations, large-scale feeding efforts, and damage assessment. In the event of a local large-scale disaster, the Red Cross can count on Ready When the Time Comes corporate partners to support their disaster response efforts.

Ready When the Time Comes exemplifies how businesses across the nation are getting involved to ensure their communities are prepared to respond when disaster strikes. More than 450 companies and organizations in 40 cities have joined Ready When the Time Comes, training more than 10,000 employee volunteers in disaster relief.

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