

Botsford kidney center sees first patients

Botsford General Hospital's newest venture in outpatient services has opened. The Botsford Kidney Center saw its first patients in early September.

Located at 28425 W. Eight Mile Road in Livonia (in the former Redstone Building), the center provides outpatient hemodialysis to people with end stage renal disease in the northwest metropolitan Detroit area.

According to nephrologist Dr. Sidney Baskin, medical director of the center, end stage renal disease is the end result of any chronic kidney disease in which the patient has a 90 to 95 percent loss of normal kidney function.

In 1973, he said, the federal government set this as a guideline for determining which patients are appropriate for dialysis and when such services would be covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

"End stage renal disease results from a number of illnesses or disorders," Baskin added. "Most common

are diabetes, uncontrolled high blood pressure and chronic nephritis. Other causes include kidney stones with obstruction, polycystic kidney disease and even drug abuse."

DEPENDENT ON the diagnosis, patients are prescribed a treatment program usually consisting of appropriate medications and a low protein and salt- and potassium-restrictive diet to help restore kidney function.

"Dialysis is often the last stage of treatment for many patients; however, they can survive on dialysis for many years," said Jim Alula, president of Dialysis Management Services, the firm that manages the Botsford Kidney Center.

"Our goal at the Kidney Center is to provide high quality care at the most reasonable cost, as well as provide a supportive environment for our patients."

Approximately 120,000 people in the United States suffer from end stage renal disease, including 5,000

to 6,000 in Michigan. The Botsford Kidney Center presently treats approximately 30 patients but expects to treat in excess of 150 patients at the facility. Patients usually spend two and a half to three and a half hours on dialysis, three times a week.

THE 7,500 square foot center includes 15 dialysis stations with the capability to expand to 19 as needed and two home dialysis training rooms for patients who will eventually perform their own treatments at home.

The majority of the home patients will be trained on a treatment modality known as continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis. In CAPD, a catheter is inserted through the abdomen into the peritoneum. A solution of dialysate and water fills the peritoneal cavity, and toxic waste materials in the blood diffuse into the solution. The dialysate solution is drained from the cavity four times a day.

The second type of home dialysis program is called continuous cycle peritoneal dialysis. As in CAPD, this method uses a catheter inserted into the peritoneal cavity. With the help of automated equipment, peritoneal dialysis is performed at night while the patient sleeps.

"Both home methods of dialysis give the patient more freedom and flexibility in their daily routines because they do not need to come into the Kidney Center on a weekly basis," Alula said.

THE BOTSFORD Kidney Center is managed by Dialysis Management Services, a firm that specializes in outpatient dialysis programs. However, the center is owned by Botsford General Hospital and two local nephrology groups.

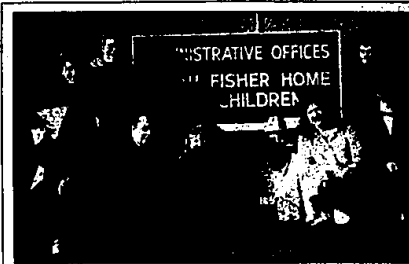
"Botsford had been thinking about establishing its own outpatient hemodialysis service, and we looked into our own inpatient volumes of

those needing dialysis after discharge," said Bill Scheuber, administrator of Professional and Support Services at Botsford.

"We were surprised to see how high they were. We saw this as a good opportunity to provide a much-needed outpatient service for our pa-

tients and one that will feed into our existing outpatient services such as laboratory and X-ray services, as well as the Community Pharmacy."

The Botsford Kidney Center is open Monday through Saturday, during regular business hours. For more information call 442-7999.



Some scary folks

Goblins and ghosts of the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Town Center in Southfield gave Halloween treats to the Sarah Fisher Home For Children in Farmington Hills. They are: Hilda Sinawi (left), Jeffrey Demlow, John Zawicki, Patricia McKay, Adrienne Daniels, Thomas Padgett, Karen Gwaltney, Lynn Eutsler, event coordinator, is not pictured.

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School program moves to Southfield

By Valerie Olander
staff writer

This month school officials, staff and students at Southfield-Lathrup High School will be preparing to house a special education center program for Oakland Intermediate Schools.

About 30 students, half of whom are from Southfield, will be transferred from the Farmington School District to Southfield in early December.

School officials in Farmington asked Oakland Schools to take the program back after the building where the Pride Program was taught was cited for needing structural repairs.

THE PROGRAM was transferred

to Southfield Public Schools since it doesn't have any center programs to share among the various school districts in Oakland County. There are seven other SEI programs in Oakland County.

Targeted students are those who have disciplinary and emotional problems and can't function in a normal classroom atmosphere.

The district has been renovating a wing at Southfield-Lathrup to house the classes. The transition is expected Dec. 2 although school officials have yet to confirm the date, said Ken Silver, public information officer for Southfield.

While the administration is drafting a behavioral management manual required by the state, students at Southfield-Lathrup High School are preparing to implement a "buddy

system" to welcome the SEI students to the new school.

Principal James Smyth initiated the system which will pair students in the program with students already attending the high school.

Since the SEI classes have been taught in a separate building from the high school in Farmington, students were unable to intermingling.

WALTER Kokal, supervisor of the program in Southfield, said the "buddy system" at Southfield-Lathrup will offer a positive role model for the pupils in the SEI program.

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