

Food and Nutrition Services Director Patrick O'Keefe chats with diet menu processors Peggy Mason, left, and Dianne Prowell. They handle the room service calls and pass them on to the prep area.

OAKWOOD

be able to order what you like, not what they serve to you. It makes your hospital experience more pleasurable," she added. Bross said that all of the hos-

pital staffs that have tested the program have received rave reviews from patients on Room

reviews from pattents on Room-Service. "In June, I presented Room Service at a seminar for the American Society of Healthcare Food Service Administrators in Orlando, Fla. The room was just jammed. It's been slow to come to this area, but it's com-ing. We really need to give the

customers what they want," she said.

Not only has the new program been a learning caperience for the dining staff but also for the nursing staff at Oakwood.

Now they need to communicate with them even more effectively on whet tests and owns.

cate with them even more effec-tively on what tests and proc-dures they may be having so their catting doesn't interfere with that. You don't want patient's food to arrive as they are leaving to have a test done. Bruss said. But what about patients with heart disease, diabetes or other diet-restricting conditions? There's a page on the menu item is identified as to whether

it's heart healthy and the num-ber of carbohydrates in it. We also have a halal diet for Muslim populations," she said. 'If a patient calls Food Service, and they're on a special diet, the clerk who answers the phone assists them in their selections. It's a nice education al opportunity for the patient as well."

Bross said that the doctors at Oakwood have also been very supportive of the new Room Service menu.

They want their patients to eat and get well," she added, The menu is even available to patients in the emergency department and the intensive care unit.

SELF HELP GROUPS

Self-Help groups
Anyone seeking information
on a variety of self-help groups
may call the Michigan Self-Help
Clearing House at (877) 7775556.

"Fibro-Friends & More," a support group for sufferers of fibromyalgia and Chronic

Send your registration to:

Fatigue Syndrome, meets 1 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. Call Tina at (734) 495-0226 or Lucy at (734) 953-8576

Bereavement
"Together to Share," a grief
support group, meets 10 a.m.

the first Monday of each month at American House on Middlebelt Road in Livonia. The Middlebelt Road in Evronia. The group meets 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Dorvin Nursing Center on Middlebelt Road in Livonia. Both groups are facilitated by a bereavement coordinator from Heartland Hospice in Southfield. Call (800) 770-985.

Urgent Care facility is offering early flu shots starting this week

Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala, of Livonia Urgent Care, urges people to get their flu and pneumonia vaccination early this year so they can head into the holiday season with one

the holiday season with one less worry.

"Influenza vaccine can prevent influenza," he said. "Most people are ill with influenza for only a few days, but some get much sicker and may need to be hospitalized."

Flu shots will be offered at lineal alternat Cara Mission.

Flu shots will be offered at Livonia Urgent Care, Mission Health Medical Center, corner of Seven Mile Koad and Newburg, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Sept. 24. Flu shots cost Sils pneumo-nia ahota, which are recom-mended every three years for people over 50 or for those with respiratory problems, cost \$35.

with respiratory problems, cost \$35s.

The Centers for Disease
Control warms that influenza is far more dangerous than a bad cold. It's a disease of the lungs, and it can lead to pneumonia.

Each year about 114,000 people in the United States are hospitalized and about 20,000 people die because of the flu.

At highest risk of severe ill-

ness are people 65 years old and older, children is to 23 months, adults and children with a chronic health conditions - heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, cancer and HIV/AIDS - and women more than three months pregnant during the flu season.

The CDC said myths still exist about the flu vaccine. The following statements are fact, not fiction:

The shot cannot ever a support of the conditions of the conditions are supported by the conditions of the conditions of

following statements are fact, not fiction:

If The shot cannot give you the fu. Flu vaccines are made from killed influenza viruses, which cannot activate the flu.

If Although some people can still get the flu after being vaccinated, this is not likely. If you do get the flu, you are likely to be far less sick than you would have been without the protection. However, the flu shot will not protectly our from other viruses that can cause illnesses that sometimes feel like the flu.

If the worst side effect from a flu vaccination is a sore arm. The risk of a rure allergic reaction is far less than the risk of severe complications from influenza.

Not everyone can get the

Influenza.

■ Not everyone can get the flu shot. If you are allergic to eggs (used in making the vaccine), are ill with a high fever, or have had a severe reaction to a past flu vaccination, you

may not be able to get this pro-tection.

The flu vaccine is not only
for the old and sick. Both
adults and children who are in
good health need a flu shot to
stay healthy. Even if you are
not at risk of complications,
you should get a flu shot to
protect everyone you live with
and contact.

and contact.

The flu shot can be given before or during the flu season. While the best time to get a flu shot is in October or November, a flu shot in December or later will still

November, a file shot in Poeember of later will still protect you. Last year Livonia Urgent Care was inundated with people seeking file shots. It's best to act early, said Arsiwala. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, except there is no instant cure if you get the flu. "Influenza causes thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the clidry," he said.

Seniors seeking the flu shot should bring their Medicare and secondary insurance cards, as well as their driver's license. Flu shots will be given through becember. For more information, call Livonia Urgent Care at (734) 542-6100.

rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net

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These tools can provide insight into what happens to the body during menopause or after having a baby, when either low desire or low arousal can affect escuality. Many women also experience changes in their bodies due to a disease or after surgery.

gery.
"Sex during a disease or

"Sex during a disease or after surgery is an area that only now we're beginning to talk about," says Foley. "The idea is that it's not enough to just survive a disease. Survival is about wanting to lead a nor-

mal life, and that life should

mal life, and that life should include sexuality.

But one thing to keep in mind in any of life's situations is that creating a sexually healthy life takes work. Foley encourages women to put the same effort into their sexual selves as they would any good friendship or an exercise program.

Women also need to accept Women also need to accept themselves for who they are both physically and mentally, Being comfortable with your body is an important step in gaining sexual self-confidence. In addition, women should try to avoid measuring themselves against images in magazines. "Ultimately, it's not what the media does to a woman, it's

MINITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

not what magazines do to a woman, it's what we do to ourselves, Foley says. If we start changing our viewpoint about how we see other people in their aging or their body, we'll change our own self-perceptions.

And it women need advice or are experiencing any type of sexual difficulty. Foley strongly recommends that they make an appointment with their health care provider or ask questions during a routine examine.

For more information about

examine.
For more information about the book, "Sex Matters For Women: A Complete Guide to Taking Care of Your Sexual Self," visit http://www.guil-ford.com



Did you know that over 17 million Americans have diabetes and that Michigan has the fourth highest rate of diabetes complications, including heart disease, kidney fail-ure and amputations? Did you also know that walking can help prevent type 2 dia-betes, and improves cardiovascular fitness? So with every step you take and every

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American Diabetes Association 30300 Telegraph Rd. Suite 117 Bingham Farms, Mi 48025 hone: 248-433-3830 Fax: 248-433-1095 Email:]kanner@diabetes.org

