

Summer 2011 NEWSLETTER

Steven E. Reznick, M.D. FACP
7280 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Suite 205 N, Boca Raton, FL 33433
561-368-0191 or email DrR@BocaConciergeDoc.com

On the Horizon

August 2011

Health Care Computer Systems Changes in Progress



The Federal Government is requiring physician offices to implement Electronic Health Record Systems in the next four years. Our office already has a certified electronic medical record system but unfortunately was purchased by two other firms who decided to discontinue it.

The implementation process *will require us to **close the office for non-urgent care from September 19th – 23rd***. We will be seeing patients for medical emergencies and other urgent medical problems on those days but will not be doing routine follow up visits or labs. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Once completed, patients will be able to obtain access to their records through an online, security protected, system using a unique User ID and Password. From a practical standpoint, we will now have a remedy when a patient comes in for a visit and tells me they have been seen by another physician who has not sent the labs or reports to us. Patients will be able to use their User ID and password to obtain the information immediately. It will also assist travelers in obtaining critical medical information if they seek medical care, out of the area, on an emergency basis.

At the same time our office is upgrading our computers we are learning the new Computer Physician Order Entry System at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. The local hospitals are all converting to electronic health records as well. We will no longer be writing our admission and medication orders by hand. Instead we will use a computerized entry system. Handwriting confusion errors will be eliminated.

Learning several new systems at once is challenging. If you have any questions or wish to see how it works please let me know.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plans - “Many seniors overpay for Medicare Drug Plans”

The date for applying for enrollment in Medicare Part D Supplemental Drug Plans have been moved to October 15, 2011. The final date to apply or change your plan is now Dec. 7, 2011 not Dec 31st.



A recent study by PlanPrescriber revealed that 94% of Florida’s Medicare beneficiaries are in the wrong plan and are overpaying by \$546 per year on average. To get the best plan, each individual must review

the different choices available in their zip code, list their medicines and re-evaluate the best choice each year. www.Medicare.Gov provides a simple and easy way to find the best plan in your zip code.

If you are not computer literate or find this confusing you can call the Medicare help line and they will walk you through the process.

For the last several years our office has set up appointments with patients and we have gone through the re-evaluation and application process with those who require assistance. Please call in advance to set up an appointment and specify you need help with selecting a 2012 Medicare Part D Drug Plan. We will need a current list of your medications including those prescribed by other physicians and some knowledge of nearby pharmacies. The application process requires selecting a “preferred” pharmacy in your zip code that gives the best prices.

Influenza Vaccines Available



September 1st kicks off the national campaign to inoculate all adults against influenza. The Center for Disease Control and National Institute of Health now recommend influenza vaccination for all adults -expanding the previous suggestions targeting adults older than 65 years old.

Based on when influenza arrives in South Florida I suggest obtaining your vaccine sometime after October 1 unless you will be travelling to an area of the world where influenza arrives earlier. Call the office to make a reservation or if you have any questions. Once again this is a killed inactivated attenuated virus vaccine.

While obtaining your flu shot don't forget to update your tetanus/ whooping cough, immunity and please consider pneumonia prevention with Pneumovax (age 65 or greater) and shingles vaccine Zostavax if you are 50 or older.

Hurricane Season – Health related Preparations

We are heading into the heart of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. With this in mind certain health related preparations are essential.

1. Create a hurricane plan.
 - a. Decide in advance whether you will stay in your home or evacuate?
 - b. If you leave, where will you go and how far in advance should you leave to reach safety?
2. Create a plan to communicate with loved ones / friends.
3. Have a plan to protect your home, property and pets.
4. If you need a special needs shelter you will need to call the Division of Emergency Management in advance at 561.712.6400 to make a reservation. If you require special equipment to maintain your health, you will need to apply in advance and receive approval to stay in a special needs shelter.
5. Assemble a two weeks supply of food, water, medicine and other items. Even if FEMA and the authorities respond rapidly you still may need to care for yourselves for several weeks.



As in the past, the office phones will be forwarded out of the area. If there is electricity and functioning cell phone service I can be reached by calling the office number 561.368.0191. I will have my satellite

phone as well at 1.254.240.9301. Satellite phones require me to be outside in the street with the antenna pointed towards a heavenly communications satellite to receive or make a call. Leave a message and I will call back when I check my messages.

Hospital emergency rooms will be open before and after the storms. The ER locks down and closes during a hurricane. The fire department and police do not respond to emergency calls once the winds reach 35 MPH. Unless you have a life threatening health emergency (loss of consciousness, inability to breath, chest discomfort, uncontrollable bleeding or intractable pain) you are best not going to the ER. Waiting time will be longer because they triage protocols call for rationing care and treating the sickest patients first. Each hospital will staff its ER with physicians and will have in-house doctors to care for existing in patients. They are generally unable to reach community physicians if the phone service is down and in the past have sent local police to the homes of the doctors to retrieve them if necessary.

If you have any hurricane related questions please feel free to call the office, email me or ask about it during a planned visit.

My Blog – Boca Raton Concierge Doctor

I have been writing health related articles for this newsletter for several years now. It takes time and resources to send the newsletter out 3 - 4 times per year. To supplement that, I have started writing a “blog.” You can access the blog easily by signing on to the practice website with your computer at www.BocaConciergeDoc.com . In the left hand margin is a link for you to click to



get to the blog. The blog has many timely health related articles for your review and consideration. The address to go directly to the blog is <http://bocaratonconciergedoctor.wordpress.com/>.

My blog includes articles regarding treatment, prevention, detection, diseases, exercise, prescriptions, aging, advocacy, guidelines, health care regulations and policy, community service and other relevant topics. I also post topical guest blogs by experts in their respective fields.

Facebook Page



Be sure to visit my Boca Concierge Doctor page on Facebook. It will allow you to stay in touch with our practice and any developments. Also, be sure to click the “Like” button when you’re on the page. And, if you have something to share, you can post it to my “Wall”.

Membership - If You Like our Care and Service, Please Refer a Friend.



Practicing medicine in South Florida always involves a constant turnover of patients. Patients move frequently so we need to replenish our patient membership constantly. If you like the way the staff and I care for you, please refer a friend, family member or colleague. There is a discount on membership for patients who send in a referral who joins the practice.

Executive Health Plans

The practice is set up to deliver corporate health care, including executive physicals. Many of you own thriving businesses. We would like to work with you to keep you, your senior management team and your employees healthy. If you are interested in discussing a plan please let us know.



Do you have an idea for the practice?



We have a wonderful and diverse group of patients in this practice. If there is a service or idea you have for improving upon the practice please let us know.

To set an appointment, please contact my practice at:

Steven E. Reznick, M.D., FACP
7280 W. Palmetto Park Rd., #205N
Boca Raton, FL 33441
561-368-0191

Be sure to visit my web site at [www.BocaConcierge Doc.com](http://www.BocaConciergeDoc.com)



The staff joins me in looking forward to seeing each of you in the near future.

Steven E. Reznick, M.D., FACP, PA (Boca Concierge Doctor) is a concierge medical practice that provides gracious service in a comfortable and private office setting while administering 21st century care and technology with old fashioned attention and concern.

Check out my blog at: <http://bocaratonconciergedoctor.wordpress.com/>