

South Nassau in the News

South Nassau health care professionals are frequently called on to serve as expert sources for articles in trade journals, newspapers, popular magazines, radio and television. Here is a listing of when and where the hospital's physicians were in the news:

Ann Buhl, M.D., director of gynecologic oncology, served as the expert interview source for an article about the new pap smear guidelines, which was published in *The Hospital Newspaper*.

Vincent Reid, M.D., surgical oncologist, discussed new mammogram guidelines and advancements in surgical oncology on Healthradio's "Ask Dr. DeSilva."

Linda Efferen, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer, was an expert interview source for an article about the challenges facing hospice care which was posted on *Hospice-ezine.com*.

Ken Becker, M.D., president of the medical staff, was a source for *The Village Herald's* editorial on New Year's resolutions.

Samuel Sandowski, M.D., director of family practice residency, served as the expert interview source for *LI Parenting* magazine's article about the importance of annual check-ups for fathers.

Richard Nauheim, M.D., director of ophthalmology, and **Delcasse Joseph, M.D.**,

general surgeon, were featured in *The Village Herald* in an article about their relief work in Haiti.

Rajiv Datta, M.D., chair of surgery, cancer program medical director and chief of surgical oncology, served as the expert interview source for *ENT Today's* article about people postponing surgery or treatment of head and neck conditions due to financial difficulties.

Shahriour Andaz, M.D., director of thoracic oncology, who was recently a recipient of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award, was featured in *Newsday*, *The South Asian Times* and *News-India Times*.

Go Red for Women

On Friday, February 5, South Nassau observed the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" Day. Members of the Patient Financial Services Department came to work in support of the hospital's efforts to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease among women.



Compliance Corner

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Case No. 3:

You work in the Dietary Department and see the name of an employee that you know on a dietary card. You did not know that this employee was a patient and want to visit him/her. Is this a HIPPA violation?

You cannot use information obtained through your job to visit a patient who may also be an employee of the hospital. If you want to visit a patient, you must follow visitor procedures by going to the Information Desk during visiting hours, asking for the patient by name and receiving a visitor's badge. If the Information Desk tells you that they do not have a patient listed by that name, the employee may not want visitors and consequently, opted-out of the directory. Also, remember that you cannot visit a patient during your work hours; you must go during your off-shift hours.

Case No. 4:

You notice that a contractor/vendor working at the hospital did a great job on a project, and you would like to hire him/her to do work on your home. The contractor offers to do the work at a significantly discounted rate. What should you do?

If you are using a hospital vendor for personal use, this must be reported through the hospital's Conflict of Interest Policy, and you must demonstrate that you paid fair market value for the services.

As an employee of South Nassau, you are required to comply with all hospital policies. If you are unclear about a policy, you are obligated to ask for clarification.

We must ensure that we keep patient information confidential. Even if you incidentally obtain patient information while performing your job, you must not disclose that information to anyone else.

All of this information and more is included in the Compliance Program Handbook. You will be receiving a copy of the updated handbook during a training in 2010. There is also a copy of the handbook available on the hospital Intranet at <http://www.snchweb.com> under the "Corporate Compliance" section. If you have any questions on the above information, you can also contact the Compliance Office directly at 632-3040.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Compliance and Ethics Week will be observed May 3 – 6. Additional details regarding this year's Compliance and Ethics Week will follow.

Thank you,

Ann Amato
Compliance Officer and Privacy Official