

The OccMed Colorado Connection

Volume 2, Issue 1, Fall 2007

Meet the Staff

In each issue of The OccMed Colorado Connection, we introduce you to a member of our professional staff. In this issue, meet Executive Director Monika Valentine.



Monika Valentine is executive director of OccMed Colorado. An accomplished healthcare administrator, she has more than two decades of business and management experience. Monika has an acute ability to analyze complex situations, evaluating them from every conceivable angle, and then proposing creative solutions for resolution. In her position as executive director, she wears a myriad of hats: CEO, CFO, sales manager, case manager, client relations manager, human resources manager and more.

Prior to joining OccMed Colorado, Monika was the director of occupational medicine and specialty practices for HealthOne. She was responsible for the operational oversight of 10 occupational medicine clinics and five multi-specialty practices.

Monika has always been an active community volunteer and leader. She is currently a member of the Medical Care Advisory Committee for the Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation and is past president of the Quality Healthcare Coalition where she remains an active board member. She is also an active member of the Colorado Brain Injury Association, Aurora Chamber of Commerce and North Metro Chamber of Commerce.



Monika Valentine

In 2006, Monika and her husband, Jeff, founded The Valentine Foundation. The foundation was established to provide assistance to patients with congenital heart disease, a condition with which Jeff lives every day. When she's not working or attending committee meetings, Ms. Valentine enjoys playing golf and hanging out with her Bassett hound, Fred.

HB07-1176: How Will New Law Affect Employers? *By Monika Valentine*

Governor Bill Ritter signed into law HB07-1176 last spring. The law states it is "concerning the ability of an injured employee under the 'Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado' to select a treating physician from a list prepared by an employer under certain circumstances."

The idea was to provide injured workers with a choice of health care providers. The new

law will require employers to provide "a list of at least two physicians or two corporate medical providers or at least one physician and one corporate medical provider." When the law becomes enacted on January 1, 2008, what will it mean for employers?

The Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation has been charged with crafting an interpretation of the law as it will directly affect the

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Hepatitis B Update *By Gary Zuehlsdorff, D.O.*

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The hepatitis B virus (HBV) can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver

failure and death. While the rate of incidence is lower in the U.S. when compared to Asia, China and Africa, HBV has grown into a global public health problem and the U.S. is not immune. An

estimated 1.25 million Americans have chronic HBV and are a potential source of infection to others.

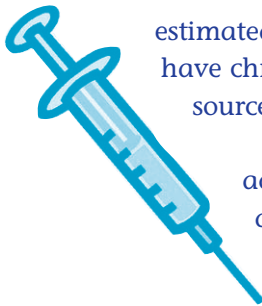
While childhood and adolescent rates have decreased due primarily to better immunization, the disease has increased among adults.

HBV is spread when blood

from an infected person enters the body of a person who is not infected, primarily through sex or injection drug use. The virus is not spread through food or water, sharing eating utensils, breastfeeding, hugging, kissing, coughing, sneezing or by casual contact. However, HBV is the most commonly transmitted blood-borne virus in health care and municipal worker settings, including paramedics, firefighters and police officers.

Despite advances in antiviral therapy, only a minority of patients with chronic Hepatitis B have shown a positive response. Thus, immunization remains the main weapon of control of HBV infection transmission. Pre-hire and annual evaluations, as well as post-exposure visits to an occupational health physician, are recommended in order to determine the need for appropriate immunization or other course of action.

HBV is the most commonly transmitted blood-borne virus among health care and municipal workers.



In Good Company

In each issue of The OccMed Colorado Connection, we profile one of our client companies or a pet project in which we are involved. In this issue, we spotlight Ludvik Electric.



Since its incorporation in Denver in 1980, Ludvik Electric Company has put in place approximately \$1 billion of electrical installations on projects throughout the western U.S. and as far away as South Africa. The firm's mission is to provide exceptional service, quality and integrity to its clients, which is how it has earned a reputation as Denver's electrical contractor of choice for large projects. Ludvik has 150 employees working out of its Denver office and another 160 working out of its office in Tempe, Ariz.



"We specialize in high-tech electrical jobs," said Jim Fox, corporate safety director for Ludvik Electric. "For example, we installed the intricate, computerized control lighting scheme for the German-engineered crystal lights in the new ballroom of the Colorado Convention Center."

Ludvik Electric chose OccMed Colorado because of its outstanding physicians. According to Fox, Ludvik also appreciates the doctors' attitudes for treating employees while on a modified duty program. "They want our employees back on-the-job as quickly and safely as we do," he said.

For more information about Ludvik Electric, visit www.ludvik.com. For more information about OccMed Colorado, visit www.occmedcolorado.com or call 303-341-1799.

New Faces at OccMed Colorado

OccMed Colorado welcomes two new members to its executive staff, Lisa Selby and Monica Fanning. Lisa has been hired to direct the company's growing sales operations. Prior to joining OccMed Colorado, she was an account representative for Quest Diagnostics for nine years, where she was consistently one of the country's top producers. Her past experience also includes working as a sales trainer and product manager. An accomplished cellist, in her spare time, Lisa is a member of the Mountain Air String Quartet and the Lone Tree Symphony Orchestra. She can be reached at the Aurora office, 720-859-6139.

Monica, who practices at both of OccMed Colorado's Denver-area clinics, is board certified as a family nurse practitioner and holds a master's degree in nursing from Regis University. Prior to joining OccMed Colorado, she was a nurse practitioner at HealthOne



Lisa Selby



Monica Fanning

Occupational Medicine Clinics. Monica believes in wellness and encourages patients to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes exercise, a healthy diet, smoking cessation and annual physical exams. She can be reached in Aurora at 720-859-6139 or in Thornton at 720-872-0399.

HB07-1176: How Will New Law Affect Employers? *Continued from page 1*

Workers' Compensation Rules of Procedures, specifically Rule 8, Workers' Compensation Adjudication Rules. As the interpretation comes to fruition over the next couple of months, employers should stay informed as it will likely affect the way in which you select designated occupational health providers.

Once the new rule has been drafted, the Division will hold a hearing. While the legislation cannot be changed at the hearing, it provides an opportunity for the public to comment. Visit the Division's website at www.coworkforce.com/dwc, and click on "Rules of Procedure" from the left-hand navigation; then choose "Proposed/Adopted Rules/Notices

The law is designed to provide injured workers with a choice of health care providers.

of Rule Hearings" to find a notice of the hearing, which is expected to be in September or October.

Some of the questions the new rule might answer include:

- How will your post-offer physicals be handled with dual designation?
- Will exclusive pricing agreements with your current occupational health providers still be in effect (after all, they are "exclusive")?
- How will you manage a more complex record-keeping system?

OccMed Colorado can help you manage the change created by the new law. We're here to help you every step of the way. We will be conducting roundtable discussions to help you become educated about the changes. To learn more or to request your place at a roundtable, call Lisa Selby at 720-859-6139 or email her at lselby@occmedcolorado.com.



Occupational Medicine
and Musculoskeletal Care

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Denver Business Journal Recognizes Monika Valentine

More than 200 women were nominated for the Denver Business Journal's ninth annual Outstanding Women in Business special section. We're proud to announce that OccMed Colorado's executive director, Monika Valentine, was one of three finalists in the Health Care category. Nominees in nine categories were judged on innovation, entrepreneurship, professional accomplishments and community leadership. While she did not take the top honor, those of us who know her know she is exceptional and deserving of this recognition. Winners and finalists were featured in the August 17-23, 2007 issue of the Journal. Congratulations Monika!

Two Convenient Locations

Aurora

3449 Chambers Rd., Suite B
(Just south of I-70 on Chambers)
720-859-6139

Thornton

550 E. Thornton Pkwy., Suite 110
(SW corner of Thornton Pkwy and Washington
in the Pinnacle Shopping Center)
720-872-0399

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