

The Dispensary Update

Issue 12, February 2009



Growing Needs In Our Communities...

For those of us involved in meeting the needs of uninsured and low-income individuals, the last few months have provided a tidal wave of activity. Whether it's the substantial increase in patients we're serving or the passage of the stimulus package, it's a constant challenge to identify sustainable opportunities while avoiding traditional pitfalls. Yet, in the midst of it all, we hear stories of caregivers staying late and driving miles to visit patients in their homes. For these reasons and so many others, it is an honor to serve such a dedicated community.

While we have seen a 54% increase in medications requested between December 2008 and January 2009, we've experienced a 170% increase over the last seven months. In an effort to meet the growing demand and lessen the burdens of our dispensing sites, we will be launching a central fill pharmacy in May to meet the needs of qualifying prescription assistance patients as well as beginning a special 340B offering for our FQHC dispensing sites. The central fill pharmacy will allow us to directly fill a sub-set of prescriptions for patients qualifying for traditional prescription assistance, while the 340B program will empower FQHCs to implement pharmacy services directly - reducing costs for both patients and payers.

If you want to learn more about the above programs or have additional ideas on how we might better serve your needs, please don't hesitate to call or email us. There is no doubt the coming months will be challenging, but we will strive to grow and innovate in ways that improve the lives of the patients we serve.

In Hope,
Jason Dinger
Chief Executive Officer,
Dispensary of Hope

Personal Note: It is an honor and a pleasure to announce that this February, I began serving as the Dispensary of Hope's Chief Executive Officer. In an effort to capitalize on the momentum and opportunities before us, we felt additional help and support was needed as we expand nationally. Scott Cornwell has taken an expanded role as our Chief Operating Officer as his continual guidance and leadership is crucial to our long-term success. We are all here to meet your needs, so don't hesitate to contact us regarding ways we can improve in our service to you.

Dispensary Featured by *Wall Street Journal*



The Dispensary of Hope recently gained national media attention thanks to a feature article that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal's* Health Blog.

The article focused on a recent boom in demand for free prescription drugs as many people have lost their jobs and subsequently their health insurance coverage during the economic downturn. It also noted that so far, the Dispensary's physician network has grown to almost 1,000 physicians.

For the complete *Wall Street Journal* article, [click here](#).

Network Spotlight: Traci Warner

This month's focus is on Traci Warner. She has been a family nurse practitioner at Faith Family Medical Clinic in Nashville for the last 4-1/2 years.

"To me, it has been a great blessing that I can have medicines on site and if I don't have them on site I know I can get them within a week," Warner spoke of her job. "It is a smooth easy process and it is a huge benefit to the patients."

Warner was instrumental in the launching of the partnership with the Dispensary of Hope.

It's not just Warner who enjoys her work; Warner's co-workers sing her praises. "She has been awesome to work with," one said. "She has a great personality."

Stay Informed

The Dispensary of Hope Blog is the best way to stay connected to the Dispensary network. Check www.dispensaryofhopeblog.org each day, Monday through Friday, for a new post on topics and issues from the Dispensary staff. Feel free to leave comments to spur the discussion.

Clarksville Clinic Joins Dispensary Network

The Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center recently joined the Dispensary of Hope network. The clinic, based in Clarksville, Tenn., has been serving Middle Tennessee for more than 40 years, and is joining our network of 15 other dispensing sites across the country.



MATTHEW WALKER
Comprehensive Health Center, Inc.

"The rising cost of medication and the current economic challenges have created hardships for many of our patients. The Dispensary of Hope gives us just that - hope for healthy patients, healthy communities," said Dr. Michelle Williams, Medical Director for Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center.

The new dispensing site opened earlier this month, and is located at 230 Dover Road in Clarksville. For more information, call (931) 920-5000, and for the complete press release, [click here](#).