

health matters

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ECRMC Supported in War on Asthma

El Centro Regional Medical Center has qualified for grants totaling nearly \$275,000 from the Imperial County Children and Family First Commission to continue its work among asthmatic children in the Imperial Valley.

See page 2 for complete story.

health matters
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El Centro Regional Medical Center
An Agency of the City of El Centro

Infectious Disease Specialist Joins Medical Staff

The addition of the only infectious disease specialist in Imperial Valley to the medical staff of the Valley Family Care Centers (VFCC) in El Centro and Calexico further expands the already broad scope of health care services available at the centers operated by the El Centro Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Mohammed M. Al-Jasim brings a specialty to the Valley that otherwise is available only on the coast. He comes to the Valley from the Robert Wood Medical School in New Jersey where he had been working under an infectious disease fellowship. He will see patients three days a week El Centro Clinic and one day in

the Calexico Clinic, and is available for referrals from other physicians.

Dr. Al-Jasim is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in both Ohio and California. He is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America, the American Medical Association and the American College of Physician's Internal Medicine Society.

Richard Mauricio, VFCC RN Director, said the appearance of the West Nile virus makes this a particularly advantageous time to have an infectious disease specialist available. Dr. Al-Jasim also is an authority on the western equine virus and encephalitis.

The two Valley Family Care Centers he will be serving are available to walk-in patients and a care van offers free transportation to and

from the Calexico Clinic upon request. The Calexico Clinic is located at 2451 Rockwood Ave., Suite 101, in the El Paseo Mall and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Care van services to the Calexico Clinic are available by calling 357-0508. The El Centro Clinic is in the I.V. Medical Building on Aurora Dr., at Imperial Ave., is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. To set up an appointment with a provider at the El Centro Clinic, call 482-9100.

VFCC RN Director Mauricio, who also holds a master's degree in business administration, said the two clinics meet the stringent standards established by the Joint Commission for Accreditation on Healthcare Organizations.

Medical directors for the centers are Drs. James Ellis, a pediatrician; Dr. Jorge Robles, a family care specialist, and Dr. Uberto T. Muzarelli, internist. Dr. Muzarelli, together with Sonia Vasquez, a licensed physician's assistant, sees patients at the Calexico clinic on a full-time basis. The El Centro Clinic has the full-time services of Arlyn Duval, a certified nurse practitioner.

All physicians seeing patients at the two clinics are on the medical staff of the El Centro Regional Medical Center with full staff privileges. All, except for Dr. Muzarelli, whose practice is limited to the Calexico Clinic, are in private practice but reserve time to see patients at the centers.

Mauricio said the clinics are staffed to treat walk-in patients, but patients



Dr. Mohammed M. Al-Jasim is Imperial Valley's first infection control physician.

under the care of specific staff physicians should make appointments. He said the El Centro clinic has a staff of 22 doctors, representing 10 specialties and the Calexico clinic has a regular staff of nine physicians and a physician's assistant, representing five specialties.

He said both centers have direct accessibility to the El Centro Regional Medical Center for admission of patients, the facilities of its laboratory, its Medical Imaging Department, Pediatrics or for transfer to the Emergency Department. The clinics accept Medicare, Medi-Cal and most private insurances. The staffs at both clinics also are bilingual and are able to translate between English and Spanish if needed.



The Valley Family Care Center (VFCC), meets the stringent standards established by the Joint Commission for Accreditation on Healthcare Organizations.

Our Family of Qualified Physicians to Serve You

The Valley Family Care Center (VFCC), a department of El Centro Regional Medical Center, meets the stringent standards established by the Joint Commission for Accreditation on Healthcare Organizations. El Centro Regional Medical Center provides the facility, equipment, and a fully qualified professional nursing staff and customer service representatives.

Physician Directory El Centro Clinic

PRIMARY CARE

- Arlyn Duval, RN, MSN, CFNP
- George Fareed, MD
- Benjamin Lehr, MD
- Clara Padron-Spence, MD
- Jorge Robles, MD
- Rajeev Gupta, MD

PEDIATRICS

- James Ellis, MD
- Vallop Kanjanapone, MD
- Daniel Manjarrez, MD
- Alfredo Negrete, MD
- Oscar Ortiz, MD

PEDIATRIC NEONATOLOGY

- Vallop Kanjanapone, MD
- Oscar Ortiz, MD

PODIATRY

- Cyril Gostich, MD
- Frederico Hernandez, MD

PULMONARY MEDICINE

- Patrick Wolcott, MD

GASTROENTEROLOGY

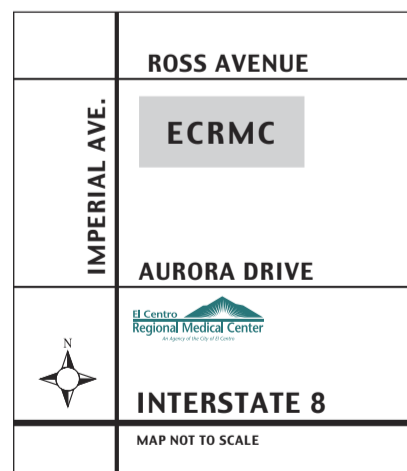
- Hussein El-Newihi, MD
- Mostafa Hamdy, MD
- Mahomed Suliman, MD

VFCC El Centro Clinic (760) 482-9100

Appointments are recommended, but not required.

1745 South Imperial Avenue, Suite 106

Located in the I.V. Medical Building on Aurora Dr., at Imperial Ave.



REHABILITATIVE MEDICINE

- John Jahan, MD

RHEUMATOLOGY

- Michael Keller, MD

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Mohammed Al-Jasim, MD

OPHTHALMOLOGY

- Majid Mani, MD

Physician Directory Calexico Clinic

PRIMARY CARE

- Uberto Muzzarelli, MD
- Sonia Vasquez, PA-C

PEDIATRICS

- Alfredo Negrete, MD
- Luz Tristan, MD
- Daniel Manjarrez, MD
- Vallop Kanjanapone, MD

GASTROENTEROLOGY

- Hussein El-Newihi, MD
- Mahomed Suliman, MD

OPHTHALMOLOGY

- Majid Mani, MD

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Mohammed Al-Jasim, MD

VFCC Calexico Clinic (760) 357-0508

Appointments are recommended, but not required.

2451 Rockwood Avenue, Suite 101

Located in the El Paseo Mall across from Wal-Mart.

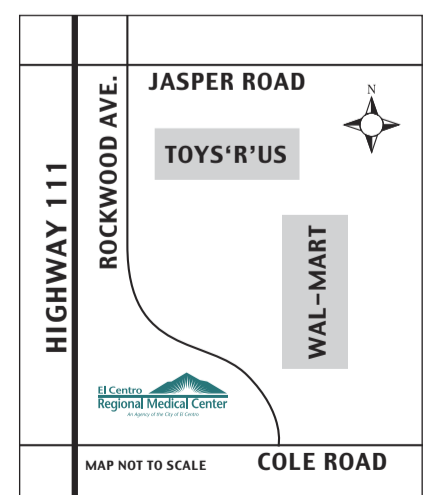


Care Van Services

to the **Calexico Clinic**

are available by calling

(760) 357-0508



Our Family Serving Yours

ECRMC's VFCC Clinics Staffed for Excellence



Nurse Practitioner, Arlyn Duval has worked for VFCC for 7 years, full-time. She is a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is Homeland Security. She has full security clearance and does disaster medical assistance.



ECRMC's Valley Family Care Centers provide services ranging from Primary Care, Pediatrics, Pediatric Neonatology, Podiatry, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Rehabilitative Medicine, Rheumatology, Ophthalmology, and Infectious Disease.



The VFCC clinics accept Medicare, Medi-Cal and most private insurances. The staffs at both clinics also are bilingual and are able to translate between English and Spanish if needed.



ECRMC Supported in War on Asthma



ECRMC's asthma program teaches parents how to cope with young asthma sufferers.

El Centro Regional Medical Center has qualified for grants totaling nearly \$275,000 from the Imperial County Children and Family First Commission to continue its work among asthmatic children in the Imperial Valley.

The Valley is said to have up to three times the normal asthma rate among school age children and younger.

The latest grant, \$136,737 for each of the next two years, will permit the county to continue working to improve the quality of life among pre-school children, from birth to five years of age, said Virgie Galindo, chief nursing officer. The asthma program is under the direction of Aidee Fulton, coordinator.

The grants were accepted by a vote of the hospital Board of Trustees.

Galindo said the grant would assist the county in teaching parents how to cope with young asthma sufferers. The training also will be offered to and teachers and other staff members of area pre-schools. The grant money will permit a continuation of a program first funded through similar grants two years ago.

The Imperial Valley Children and Family First Commission is funded through taxes on tobacco products under Proposition 10, a California initiative.

The hospital's war on asthma among school age children and younger has also had the assistance in recent years of grants from The California Endowment, the state's largest source of grants for public health programs.

Candystripers Fill the Halls Once Again

Among the familiar sights in the halls of El Centro Regional Medical Center, in both the new and older sections, are the teenagers garbed in striped pink shirts or dresses and wearing badges identifying them as "Candystripers."

Members of the all-volunteer corps of ECRMC Candystripers, now numbering more than 85 boys and girls and representing most communities and high schools in Imperial Valley, are doing more than just fancying up the place in their colorful costumes. These kids are working.

They also do more than just make life a bit easier for the patients and staff of the hospital. They hold fund-raising activities like Valentine's Day candy sales and bake sales. Their activities this year raised more than \$800, which the Candystripers spent to provide the hospital with two new utility carts.

The carts will be in use on the medical-surgical floors and in the Education Department. They are used on the patient floors to distribute magazines and newspapers to patients and to transport other supplies as needed. In the Education Department one of the carts will be used to move electronic equipment and other supplies used in setting up meeting rooms for public and staff educational classes and support groups.

The Candystripers are in effect a Junior Auxiliary, and is guided by the hospital's dedicated all-Volunteer Auxiliary. Jeannie

West, director of the Medical Center's Child Care Center, also is a veteran Auxiliary volunteer and serves as vice-president in charge of the Junior Auxiliary.

West said 22 new Candystripers were received into the organization in the past month and received the same orientation accorded new employees of the hospital. It was the largest junior Auxiliary orientation since the organization was revived two years ago.

They were given a one hour tour of the hospital "to learn where everything is," and spent three hours in classroom orientation being exposed to such topics as patient privacy rights, knowledge of fire and other emergency regulations, the importance of hand washing, and training in customer service.

There is hardly a department in the hospital that does not have Candystripers assigned to it. In the Education Department, for instance, they help set up and equip classrooms and meetings rooms. For dietary, they help distribute food trays to patients and work on the serving line in the cafeteria. On the patient floors, they distribute newspapers, magazines and flowers, and do whatever is necessary to permit nurses to spend more time in actual patient care.

In the Emergency Department they have become the official greeters to visitors and incoming patients, helping to direct them to receive the services required

Candystripers hold fund-raisers every year. This years activities raised more than \$800, which the Candystripers spent to provide the hospital with two new utility carts.



as promptly as possible. There are as many as 20 Candystripers on duty at a time in the hospital.

While the Candystripers have grown from nothing to their present strength in the two years since the program was rejuvenated, West says "we are always taking new applications and have scheduled monthly orientations." Membership is open to both boys and

girls from all Valley public, private and parochial high schools.

West, who took over the directorship of the Child Care Center when it was founded two years ago, has nearly two decades of experience as a professional in childcare centers and observes, "some of today's Candystripers were my students 15 years ago. That's really cool."

DISCLAIMER This El Centro Regional Medical Center ("ECRMC") newsletter is for the sole purpose of providing readers with reference information as a means of introducing them to ECRMC and to the services provided by its physicians, health care providers, and affiliated clinics. The Information provided is not intended to replace obtaining medical evaluations and health care advice from qualified health care providers. Reference to specific products, processes, businesses, facilities, or services does not constitute or imply recommendation or endorsement by ECRMC. Physicians are not employees of ECRMC.

Staff Writer Robert V. Liggett ©2004 CONVEYOR GROUP