The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners for DOT Commercial Driver Exams
What It Means by Dr. Jon O’Neal, MD

As reported in our May newsletter, the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published rules and regulations that created a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.

The National Registry was created to improve highway safety and driver health by requiring that medical examiners be trained and certified so they can determine, accurately and effectively, whether a driver’s medical fitness for duty meets FMCSA’s standards.

As of May 21, 2014, the FMSCA will:

- Require that motor carriers and drivers use only those medical examiners on the National Registry
- Only accept as valid Medical Examiners listed on the National Registry

This means that as of May 21, 2014, commercial drivers can no longer get a DOT exam performed by their family practice, internal medicine chiropractor or other provider unless that provider is certified and listed on the National Registry of medical examiners.

To be a certified medical examiner, a provider must:

- Complete FMCSA’s physical qualification standards training
- Pass a test to verify understanding of the standards
- Maintain and demonstrate competence through periodic training and testing

Certified medical examiners must send a monthly electronic report to FMCSA reporting all drivers who have been examined, whether the driver is granted a DOT card or not. This means, for the first time, drivers who are not certified or are disqualified by a medical examiner will be able to be tracked by FMCSA. This reporting requirement will prevent doctor-shopping by drivers.

The cost for medical examiner training, testing, maintenance of competence and reporting is significant; in the future there will be fewer medical examiners and the exams will cost more. We anticipate that the majority, if not all of our MD’s, will be certified by the implementation date.

If we can be of any assistance to your company regarding DOT exams, please contact Kirk Hyatt at 952-541-2619.

HealthPartners and Park Nicollet Unite

HealthPartners and Park Nicollet Health Services recently announced an agreement to combine their organizations and create a comprehensive, integrated health care delivery and financing organization serving the entire Twin Cities metro area and western Wisconsin. The agreement will unite the non-profit organizations under a combined, consumer-governed board of directors, creating a 1,500-physician multispecialty group practice integrated with the HealthPartners health plan. It’s subject to regulatory review and approval, but all expect it will become effective January 1, 2013.

The organizations’ current leaders will have leadership positions in the combined, non-profit organization. Mary Brainerd, HealthPartners CEO, will be CEO of the new combined organization, which will be named HealthPartners. The new HealthPartners organization will continue to use the Park Nicollet and HealthPartners names.

So what does this mean for Occupational Medicine? Positive, high-value services and experiences for our customers.

Stay tuned for details as they emerge.
Meet Dr. Jon O’Neal

Dr. Jon O’Neal is the Director of the HealthPartners and University of Minnesota Occupational Medicine Residency Program. He is board certified in Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Jon completed his medical training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and received both his Masters in Public Health and Occupational Medicine residency training at Harvard.

Jon’s areas of interest include prevention of hepatitis and HIV infections in workers, causation determination, evaluation of obstructive sleep apnea in commercial drivers, OSHA regulations, and hospital-based employee occupational health.

Dr. O’Neal has lectured extensively across the country and is the author of *A Pragmatic Approach to the Bloodborne Pathogens*, the first textbook written about the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. He has consulted for numerous companies, including Polaroid, BostonGas, Boeing/Rocketdyne, BNSF, and the Department of Energy. He is also the current Medical Director of Regions Hospital’s Employee Health and Wellness department.

In his free time Jon is a photographer (who has photos in major museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in NYC and the Library of Congress), and is an award-winning screenwriter and independent film director. Dr. O’Neal is available for consultation and presentations. Please let us know if he can be of assistance to your organization.

DOT Exams Offered at Arden Hills

We now offer DOT and other types of exams in Arden Hills on Wednesdays with Dr. Gary Johnson. Due to limited equipment, we are not able to complete a full range of exams, such as spirometry or audiograms. Call Kirk Hyatt with questions.

Occupational Medicine & Urgent Care Clinic Locations

**HealthPartners Riverside Clinic**
Occupational Medicine
2220 Riverside Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454
952-883-6999 Opt. 1
612-341-5131 (fax)

**HealthPartners St. Paul Clinic**
Occupational Medicine
205 S. Wabasha St.
St. Paul, MN 55107
952-883-6999 Opt. 2
651-293-8183 (fax)

**HealthPartners West Clinic**
Occupational Medicine
5100 Gamble Drive, Suite 100
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-883-6999 Opt. 3
952-541-2626 (fax)

**HealthPartners Arden Hills Clinic**
3930 Northwoods Dr
Arden Hills, MN 55112
952-883-6999 Opt. 4