

Center for Urological Care Offers One-Stop Diagnosis, Treatment

Patients with urological conditions such as prostate cancer, kidney stones and incontinence have a new weapon to fight their ailments: The Center for Urological Care at UCI Medical Center. The outpatient center brings together all of the components to diagnose and treat patients under one roof.

Included in the center are eight examination rooms, two procedure rooms, a urodynamics suite to assess urinary function, an outpatient surgery room, a recovery room, a blood-drawing facility and a prostate health center.

“When a patient comes to see us in our new facility, all aspects of his or her care can be coordinated and completed within the center,” says Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, chairman of UCI’s Department of Urology.

For example, a patient who requires an exam, blood to be drawn, diagnostic testing, catheterization and an outpatient surgical procedure no longer has to traipse from one doctor’s office to another. An appointment desk and the billing operation also are within the center for maximum convenience.

UCI’s center is the largest dedicated urology facility in Orange County, serviced by the largest group of urologists practicing in one location. They treat a full range of conditions, including:

- prostate diseases;
- kidney, bladder, penile, testicular and prostate cancers;
- male infertility;
- incontinence;
- male sexual dysfunction;
- kidney problems;
- varicocele;
- vasectomy (and reversals);
- urinary tract infections.



“We have nurses and an office supervisor dedicated solely to the urology center,” Clayman says. “In our new facility, we have the expertise and technology all under one roof to offer the best and most efficient care to our patients.”

For an appointment, call 1-877-UCI-DOCS.



New Medicare Drug Plan Enrollment Period Nears

Medicare’s new prescription drug program – called Part D – begins Jan. 1, 2006. Seniors have time to study the plan carefully but should be careful not to miss the final deadline. Enrollment is Nov.15, 2005, through May 15, 2006.

Premiums, coverage and deductibles will vary with the individual, but the standard plan formula is for a senior to pay out-of-pocket for the first \$3,600, then receive 95% of the cost of all drugs on the coverage list. Premiums will vary from \$0 to \$50 per month per person, with an expected average of \$25 in California for “fairly good coverage,” says insurance expert Julie Schoen.

The first task is assessing your existing drug coverage:

- **No coverage:** If you add Part D, expect premiums to be higher by \$23 to \$25 per month.
- **Medicare HMO:** “If you’re happy with what you have, your HMO will give you new prescription options,” Schoen says.
- **Medicare-plus-supplemental insurance:** Some of these plans might provide better coverage than Part D; others might not. Policy holders will receive letters with details. Note: If you add the new Part D Medicare coverage, don’t miss the May 15 deadline; after this date, premiums rise 1 percent multiplied by the number of months you wait.
- **Medicare plus Medi-Cal:** The new plan automatically takes effect, although it includes an option to get out of it, Schoen says.

“It’s all going to take some sitting down with a calculator to see what works for you,” says Schoen, an attorney with the Orange County Council on Aging.

For information, contact the Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program, a part of the Orange County Council on Aging, at 800-434-0222, or visit www.cahealthadvocates.org.