



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to



Sharon Abrams

Our Employee of the Month for June 2014



Notices and Reminders

To **ALL** field employees please remember to get your flow sheets signed on a daily basis. **ALL Flow Sheets** must have the **appropriate signatures** from your consumer and you.

Please remember to clock in and out

Thank You,

Management Teams

In This Issue

June 2014 Employee of the month

Aphasia Awareness Month

Firework Safety Month

Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month

Happy Fathers Day!

Emergency Home Care Program (EHC)

CAS Home Health Care Inc. is now introducing the EHC Program which is a community funded program dedicated to providing temporary Personal Assistance Services to individuals currently undergoing the enrollment process for Home and Community based services.

Further Your Education

Red Cross

PNA Nursing

Star Institute

Aphasia Awareness Month

What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is a disorder which results from damage to parts of the brain that contain language. Aphasia can affect the following skills: Speech, listening, reading and writing.

Aphasia is diagnosed by a speech-language pathologist who works collaboratively with the person's family and other professionals (doctors, nurses, neuropsychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and social workers).

Causes of Aphasia

Most Aphasia cases are caused by stroke. However there are other causes of Aphasia. Aphasia can be caused by a Traumatic Brain Injury or Brain Infection, Alzheimer's disease, Dementia, and progressive Neurological Disorders.

Sources

Asha.org

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/aphasia.htm#effect>

WebMd.com

<http://www.webmd.com/brain/aphasia-causes-symptoms-types-treatments>

Types of Aphasia

- **Expressive aphasia (non-fluent):** With expressive aphasia, the person knows what he or she wants to say yet has difficulty communicating it to others. It doesn't matter whether the person is trying to say or write what he or she is trying to communicate.
- **Receptive aphasia (fluent):** With receptive aphasia, the person can hear a voice or read the print, but may not understand the meaning of the message. Oftentimes, someone with receptive aphasia takes language literally. Their own speech may be disturbed because they do not understand their own language.
- **Anomic aphasia.** With anomic aphasia, the person has word-finding difficulties. This is called anomia. Because of the difficulties, the person struggles to find the right words for speaking and writing.
- **Global aphasia.** This is the most severe type of aphasia. It is often seen right after someone has a stroke. With global aphasia, the person has difficulty speaking and understanding words. In addition, the person is unable to read or write.
- **Primary progressive aphasia.** Primary progressive aphasia is a rare disorder where people slowly lose their ability to talk, read, write, and comprehend what they hear in conversation over a period of time. With a stroke, aphasia may improve with proper therapy. There is no treatment to reverse primary progressive aphasia. People with primary progressive aphasia are able to communicate in ways other than speech. For instance, they might use gestures. And many benefit from a combination of speech therapy and medication.

Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month

What is Myasthenia Gravis?

Myasthenia gravis is a chronic condition that causes muscles to tire and weaken easily. For example, if you have myasthenia gravis, you may notice that during a meal, your jaw muscles become tired and weak, interfering with your ability to chew food. After you have rested for a little while, the muscles may become strong again, allowing you to resume eating.

These waxing-and-waning weaknesses of muscles, worsening with use and improving with rest, are symptoms of this disease. There are periods when you may notice more symptoms (called an exacerbation), interspersed with periods when your symptoms decrease or disappear (remission).

The disease most commonly affects muscles that control eye and eyelid movement, so the first symptoms you notice may be eyelid drooping and/or blurred or doubled vision. Many myasthenia gravis patients start out with this "ocular myasthenia." The majority will go on to develop weakness in other muscle groups within one or two years.

Myasthenia gravis affecting multiple muscle groups throughout the body is called generalized myasthenia gravis. Other common muscle groups that are affected may make it difficult for you to chew, swallow, smile, shrug, lift your arm up, grip, rise to a stand, or walk up stairs. When the muscles necessary for breathing are affected, a patient is said to be in myasthenic crisis. This is a life-threatening situation.

Source WebMD.com

Treatment

There is no cure for myasthenia gravis, but it is treated with medications and sometimes surgery. You may be put on a drug called pyridostigmine, that increases the amount of acetylcholine available to stimulate receptors.

In severe cases, you may need to have your blood sent through a special machine that removes the antibody-containing plasma and replaces it with antibody-free plasma. This is called plasmapheresis. You may also be given a preparation called immunoglobulin through a needle in a vein.

There are no known ways to prevent myasthenia gravis. If you already have the condition, take these steps to avoid an exacerbation:

- Try to prevent infections with careful hygiene and by avoiding sick people.
- Treat infections promptly.
- Do not become overheated or too cold.
- Avoid overexertion.
- Learn effective methods of dealing with stress.

Resources

<http://www.webmd.com/brain/understanding-myasthenia-gravis-basics>

<http://www.webmd.com/brain/understanding-myasthenia-gravis-treatment>



May Finning 5/30/14

**Please use common sense and caution when using
Fireworks. Avoid a trip to the Emergency Ward**

Firework Safety Awareness Month

In 2011 U.S hospital rooms treated an estimated 9600 people for
fireworks related injuries.

Be Safe During Firework Season

Source nfpa.org