

LSU Lallie Kemp Medical Center Offers New Geriatric Services

Board-certified geriatrician heads program

Independence (September 28, 2007)--The LSU Lallie Kemp Medical Center now offers geriatric services staffed by Dr. Asif Sheikh, a board-certified geriatrician.

“Geriatrics is focused on the special needs of patients 65 years old and older,” Dr. Sheikh said. “These patients are often on several medications that put them at risk of potentially dangerous drug interactions. Also, dementia and Alzheimer’s can begin to surface in this age group. Geriatricians are trained to recognize and to treat these diagnoses.”

The LSU Lallie Kemp Geriatric Services Program provides comprehensive care for this age group. Besides medical care, the geriatrics staff reviews the patient’s support system at home, transportation issues, meal preparation, home medical equipment, and other aspects of a person’s life that impacts quality of life.

“You have to look beyond their health problems and address other issues that affect their health and well being,” Dr. Sheikh said. “For example, if a person’s vision is affected, he may not be able to read medication bottles and take medicine appropriately.”

To meet the specific needs of the geriatric population, the Geriatric Services Program provides this broad approach to best serve the patient.

“Some issues can be quickly addressed, such as adjusting medications,” Dr. Sheikh said. “Others, such as Alzheimer’s, may require ongoing, long-term attention.”

Typical diagnoses seen in this population are dementia, delirium, osteoporosis (thin bones), fall and gait problems, malnutrition, dizziness, syncope (fainting), pressure ulcers, sleep problems, mood problems, polypharmacy (multiple medications), urinary incontinence (weak bladder), hearing loss, vision problems, and dysphagia (difficulty swallowing).

To schedule an appointment, call 985.878.1389 or 985.878.1459.