



## **NURSING NEWSLETTER**

**BEHAN HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARY  
JULY-AUGUST 2008**

### **Continuing Education Resources:**

This edition of the newsletter offers the following listing of CME articles that can be obtained through the Medical Library as part of the Clinical Ladder program at JRMC:

“Pediatric Asthma” (RN, July 2008)

“Compliance with Hand Hygiene Guidelines” (AJN, August 2008)

“Is Your Patient Taking the Right Antimicrobial?” (AJN, June 2008)

“How to Try This: Using Pain-Rating Scales with Older Adults” (AJN, June 2008)

“The Danger Next Door: Methamphetamine” (RN, May 2008)

For a copy of any of the articles, please call Ann Ferrari at 412-469-5786.

### **Animal-Assisted Therapy:**

The July issue of RN offers a cover story on the benefits of pet therapy, entitled “Pet Projects: A Helping Paw.” The author reviews the various uses of animals for both therapy and visitation. Animals can be used in range-of-motion exercises, speech therapy, sensory stimulation, and other tasks. The article also discusses the reluctance to approve animal therapy because of the perceived risk of zoonosis (transmission of disease from animals to humans), and finds that the benefits outweigh the risks in most cases.

### **Alzheimer’s in the News:**

An experimental drug for Alzheimer’s has caused excitement in the news this summer, as it is the first drug that shows promise for halting the progression of the disease. The drug, called Rember, works by breaking up the protein tangles that clog the brain. A news report from MSNBC.com, “New Alzheimer’s Drug Shows Early Promise,” provides details on the studies of the drug (now in the second of three stages of development).

### **Caregiver Resources:**

For a quick overview on caregiving resources and organizations, check out the article “Care for the Caregivers: How to Find It” from the Johns Hopkins Health After 50 newsletter. The article is geared toward patients and families, and provides an overview of support organizations for caregivers. Contact information is provided for organizations such as the Family Caregiver Alliance, the National Family Caregivers Association, and the AARP.

### **Thought for the Day:**

“No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does.” – Christopher Marley