                           The Eggplant

**Valley Medical Group, P.C. Staff Newsletter           Volume XVIII, Issue 2, Feb. 14, 2018**

This year’s flu season has still not peaked and I know we are seeing increased visits (as is everyone else in health care) for flu-like illness. It’s still important to vaccinate patients and we seem to be doing a good job of that.

**Employee Flu Vaccination Rate Incentive**

Our employee flu vaccination rate for 2017 was 88%.  This is a great achievement and we appreciate the efforts of so many to be vaccinated for this flu season as this benefits the health of our communities and our families.  In 2017 we set a goal of 90% employee flu vaccination rate to provide the incentive of an additional half day off.  Although the 90% goal was not reached at VMG, and the incentive was not earned, VMG is making a difference. It is important for everyone who does not have a contraindication to be vaccinated.

**Time Off for Community Service**

For the past several years we have offered ½ day off for employees to do community service. This year we are increasing the benefit to one full day. HR has the guidelines for qualifying activities and we hope that you will all take advantage of that benefit.

We have about 300 non-practitioner employees in VMG. If everyone were to use this benefit, agencies and projects in our communities that need volunteer help would get 300 days of benefit.

Please consider volunteering your time. It makes everyone feel good.

Thank you again.

Joel