

# Health *Today*

HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS INFORMATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

FALL 2012



## Framing the future of **CANCER CARE**

*New Cancer Center and  
Peace Island Medical Center  
both set to open this fall*

Visit us on the web at [www.peacehealth.org](http://www.peacehealth.org)



PeaceHealth  
St. Joseph Medical Center



PeaceHealth Pharmacists MaryJane Davis and Louis Nguyen are among those providing care to patients on blood-thinning medications.

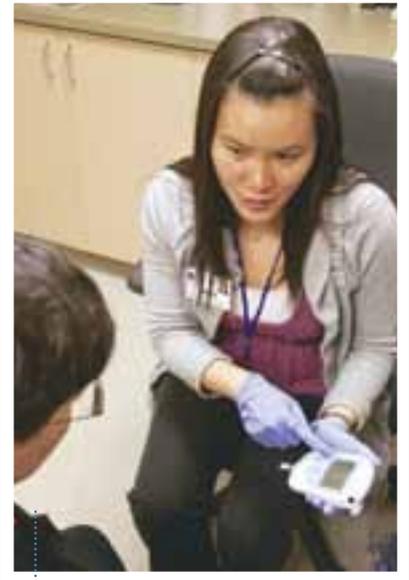
## Improving care for patients on blood-thinning medication

**BY NOW**, PeaceHealth Medical Group patients on blood-thinning medication should have noticed a change in their care. As part of an effort to ensure service consistency and safety, monitoring of blood coagulation is now provided by a hospital-based pharmacy program at two sites: the Wound Healing Center (4280 Meridian St.) and North Cascade Cardiology (next to the hospital at 2901 Squalicum Parkway). These two locations are near physician offices, have ample parking and are conveniently located on bus transportation routes.

With this change, those who have their blood monitored will have face-to-face access to specially certified pharmacists who are able to provide medication consultation and renew prescriptions for anti-coagulation medication.

While other blood-test-only sites have closed, there are four new point-of-care blood-monitoring stations, located at:

- North Cascade Cardiology
- The Bunker Building, at 3001 Squalicum Parkway
- PeaceHealth Medical Group Cordata
- The Wound Healing Center



Pharmacist Janice Louie meets with patients for consultations and prescription renewal.

## PeaceHealth Laboratories' innovation helps save lives

**A NEW PATENT** for pain-medication monitoring addresses a leading cause of death: prescription drug abuse. PeaceHealth Laboratories has received a U.S. patent for PtProtect™ (Patient Protect).

The screening test offers the industry's highest levels of accuracy to detect prescription pain medication and identify potential negative drug interactions before they occur.

"It's common for patients with ongoing addictive issues to not always tell the truth about what medications they are taking," said Joseph Regimbal, MD, of Tacoma. "PtProtect gives me confidence that I am treating the patient correctly and helps me prescribe what the patient needs."

Receiving a U.S. patent reflects the dedication of

PeaceHealth Laboratories to patient safety and care, as well as addressing a national health concern. The death rate from prescription medication overdose more than quadrupled from 2001 to 2008.

PtProtect not only helps save lives, but it can help save communities money. Prescription drug abuse is an expensive problem. The overall costs are estimated at more than \$70 billion per year. An addicted patient who receives prescriptions from multiple doctors can cost insurers \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Innovation has always been at the heart of PeaceHealth. The PtProtect patent reinforces the organization's focus on innovation and its commitment to safeguard the health and wellness of patients and communities. To learn more, visit [www.PeaceHealthLabs.org](http://www.PeaceHealthLabs.org).