



This Month: Got insurance?

On July 25, the guest speaker, Lori Kozlowski, spoke to the group about resources for the uninsured and underinsured in the Orlando area. Shepherd's Hope is one such resource offering free non-emergency medical care to low income patients who qualify. There are several clinics which are usually open two nights a week where people can seek treatment for a various conditions. They offer referrals for continuing care as well as finding the patient a medical home.

In addition to Shepherd's hope, PCAN clinics offer care to people who have insurance as well as the uninsured. Medical care is

not cheap and often times the cost of co-pays and other fees can be outrageous. PCAN offers the underinsured a place to go to get affordable treatment as well as treating those who have no coverage. Often the real budget stretcher is the cost of prescriptions. Especially for Lupus patients, several medications are necessary and covering the cost of them each month can leave little room for much else. Fortunately, there are program through various drug companies that assist with the cost of medications for those who qualify. You can access the handouts from the meeting at the following links:

[Shepherd's Hope](#)

[Orange County Resources](#)

[Common Lupus Medications](#)



45 million Americans do not have health insurance coverage. That is over 15% . In Central Florida it is even higher, about 1 in 5 are uninsured.



Awareness Counts: Living Longer With Lupus

A 30 year study of 1,184 Lupus patients shows that the survival rates have improved and the level of disease activity has declined. Researchers attribute the improvement to earlier diagnosis and more aggressive medical

treatment. This illustrates how important awareness about Lupus is. The more people who know about Lupus the more that can be done.

Source: presented at 2005 American College of Rheumatology Annual Scientific Meeting.

Help spread the word about Lupus and the DLF Support Group!

Upcoming Meetings

August 22, 2006

September 26, 2006

October 24, 2006

November 28, 2006

December 26, 2006

January 23, 2007

February 27, 2007

Meetings are held the **fourth Tuesday** of every month at **Arnold Palmer Hospital** (Classrooms 1& 2) 92 W. Miller St. Orlando, FL 32806

Meeting Overview:

- Presentation of resources for the uninsured and the underinsured in Orange County.

Next Meeting's Topic:

- Review of insurance resource materials
- Support group sharing