

For Your Information

July 2008

Special points of interest:

- Y **Performance Improvement**
- Y **Foundation News**
- Y **New Faces**
- Y **4th of July Chapel Service**
- Y **Devils Lake Parade**
- Y **And the Winners Are**
- Y **Happy Birthday Meditech**



Performance Improvement

One of the new Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals for 2008 is to "Improve recognition and response to changes in a patient's condition".

The rationale behind this goal is that a significant number of critical inpatient events are preceded by warning signs. Early response by a specially trained individual/individuals to changes in a patient's condition may reduce cardiopulmonary arrests and patient mortality.

Two of the required elements are:

1. The organization selects a suitable method that enables health care staff members to directly request additional assistance from a specially trained individual when the patient's condition appears to be worsening;
2. The organization empowers staff, patients, and/or families to request additional assistance when they have a concern about the patient's condition.

Our method of meeting this goal is through the use of a Rapid Response Team. In the event that a staff member needs additional help in an emergency situation, they can activate the Rapid Response Team by pressing "0" on the telephone and giving the operator their name and stating "Rapid Response Team to Room ____". The operator will then page the Nursing Coordinator and state "Rapid Response Team to Room ____" and the coordinator will promptly respond to the designated room to assess the situation.

To meet element No. 2, we have empowered patients and families to call for additional help if they have a concern about their condition which they feel is not being addressed by attending staff members by following the same procedure. This procedure has been posted in each of the inpatient rooms.

We will be monitoring our use of the Rapid Response Team and associated patient outcomes.

Foundation News

Due to a misprint, the Foundation brochure that we had planned to include in the Devils Lake 125th Anniversary packets, and in the employee checks, was not completed. We are in the process of developing our Board and getting the legal needs completed.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

Remember

Please report needle stick or body fluid exposures as soon as possible to either the coordinator or Joanne Almen, RN. You need to be seen in the ER! Occurrence reports also need to be reported as soon as possible.

NEW FACES AT MERCY ... PLEASE WELCOME THEM TO THE MERCY FAMILY!



Chris E.
Lab, PT
Chris joined us 6/24/08



Becky S.
Interim Lab Manager, FT
Becky joined us 7/01/08

And the winners are...

Employees winning the drawing for gas cards for completing the employee surveys were: Lisa C. (Health Information Mgmt.), Floyd B. (Environmental Services), and Janis S. (Respiratory Therapy).

Employees winning the drawing for grocery gift certificates for completing the LEARN courses were: Gordon S. (Radiology), Tonja S. and Kaitlin J. (Nursing Unit), Sandy S. (Endo/SDS), Travis G. (C.A.R.E. Medical), Rose L. and Kerry T. (Nutrition Services), Deb B. (Laundry) and Robyn W. (Admissions).

Congratulations to the lucky winners and thank you to everyone who participated!

**The simple things in life, I crave
A mind that's pure, a heart that's brave.**

**A friend, a book, a dog, a tree
These are the things I ask of thee.**

**A friend to hold my hand in trial
A book to ease my thoughts awhile**

**A dog for silent company
A tree to bring me close to Thee!**

Gwen Taft

FIRE IN YOUR AREA

R: RESCUE

A: ALARM

C: CONTAIN

E: EXTINGUISH

FIRE NOT IN YOUR AREA

Close doors/windows, Follow your department's procedure.

Reminder

Lost and found items are located in the Admissions area. If you have an item for lost and found, please bring it to Admissions as soon as possible. Calls regarding lost and found items should also be directed to Admissions.

4th of July Chapel Service

Those presently serving and those who have served in the military in the past were honored at a Memorial Chapel Service. A table was set up in the cafeteria where the names and/or pictures of loved ones in the service were posted. Those names were then read at the service. Thanks to all who participated.

We ask our Gracious God to protect all of those who protect our freedom.

Devils Lake Parade

A big thank you to Karla H. for organizing the Mercy Hospital entry in the Devils Lake Parade on July 4, 2008.

In addition, Karla's husband, Ron H., and Scott B., Maintenance, for their help in carrying out the plan, Jake T. and Neil G. for driving the pickup, and to Heidi G. and her twins for riding in the back of the pickup. And, thank you to Ray for taking the photos.



Mercy Hospital float for the July 4th, 2008 celebration

Happy Birthday Meditech!

Ice cream floats were on the menu helping to celebrate a birthday at the hospital. As of July 1, 2008, the computer program, Meditech, used in Admissions, the Business Office, and Health Information has been in effect for one year. We have had 34,246 registrations since the go-live date of July 1, 2007. To celebrate, employees enjoyed ice cream floats in the cafeteria.

Converting from blue plastic embosser cards to labels was a challenge and staff have found many more time-saving uses for the labels. We have all learned a lot along the way and all seems to be going well.

Pharmacy will be the next department using Meditech—their go-live date is December 3, 2008.



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