

Nursing update



Celebrating life with TAVR patients and families

Approximately 10 percent of the now more than 500 patients who have had a transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure at Via Christi Hospital St. Francis joined physicians, nurses and clinicians involved in their care for celebratory luncheon earlier this month. More than a dozen others sent photographs of them enjoying something today that they could participate in prior to their procedure.

One after another they shared their stories of the new lease on life they'd been given by the large, multidisciplinary team that having a successful TAVR/structural heart program requires. Sadly, one patient who had hoped to attend the event was unable, according to the following email sent by her daughter:

"Our mother, a TAVR patient of yours in September 2016, passed on to her Heavenly Home a week ago. Mom had fallen and broke her hip. Surgery was planned for the next morning. They took her in to the Operating Room that morning, and she coded on the table, even before the surgery began. Her doctors were just as shocked and saddened as we are. She had just been to your clinic for her one-year checkup two months ago and was so happy with the great report she received. Mom had given to me the invitation to 'Celebrating Life, Celebrating You,' asking me to RSVP, and to send a picture of her to you. I'm sorry I didn't get that done for her. Mom was still walking a couple of miles each day, until the day she fell. She was so very mentally and physically fit. We thank you for your love throughout all of our time with you. Your clinic staff is so full of love and kindness and we will forever be grateful. God's blessings to you all!"

Attached were four lovely pictures: one of her mother playing the piano with great grandkids; one at a grandson's wedding; and two of her with great grandchildren at a baseball game.

"Her note, like the celebration, was such a poignant reminder of the opportunity we as a healthcare team have to create generational differences and memories in the lives of the patients and families we serve," says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer.

Kindness counts

Check out this recent Facebook review by a patient at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph: "The wait was long, but they were super busy. Everyone was super nice. From the moment I was told I was being admitted and cried, the nurses, lab, all techs were incredibly nice," the patient wrote.

"Shout out to the 5th floor nurses who took care of me, and hugged me when I cried. You are all so awesome, compassionate and wonderful. We are lucky to have such caring people!! Thank you so much!!

"P.S. The food was good, too! Love how I got to "order" my food! Felt like I was in a hotel."

