

Nursing update



Persistence pays...just ask Georgia



For a long time, any time administrators rounded in the Via Christi Hospital St. Francis Emergency Department and spoke with Georgia Stubby, RN, she told them that her department needed new cardiac monitors.

Her persistence and consistency of message paid off, as funds for the new equipment was approved and nursing directors Missy Hampel and Amy Renn were tasked with selecting, negotiating and implementing the replacement of all monitors at St. Francis as well as at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph.

“It was a major investment so we wanted to ensure that we were thoughtful and deliberate in replacing the monitors,” says Amy.

One of the first units to receive the new cardiac monitors was the St. Francis ED, which recently received theirs. The rest of the monitors will be installed over the months ahead. The moral of this story, says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer: “Don’t ever stop advocating for the resources you need to safely and effectively care for your patients.”

Patient and associate safety matters

Recently, more than 1,500 bedside nurses serving at Via Christi Hospital St. Francis and Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph received Management of Aggressive Behavior training designed to move toward a restraint-free environment and one that respects patients’ and associates’ rights for a safe environment in which to receive and give care. In early April, the next phase of MOAB training will take place at Via Christi Hospital St. Teresa, Via Christi Rehabilitation Center and Behavioral Health on Orme.

Resource Pool RN Kasey Caliendo, who recently had the opportunity to put her de-escalation skills to use when a patient was threatening to harm himself and to leave against medical advice, knows how helpful those skills can be.

She had called the physician, who told her to get a court hold and in the interim place the patient in restraints. “That’s not our policy so I told him I couldn’t do that,” she says. Instead, Kasey moved the patient, a veteran experiencing signs of post-traumatic stress, to a room across the hall where a patient sitter was already with another patient. “That completely relaxed him because he just wanted someone to talk to.” Kasey then called his family, who were relieved by her actions and the outcome.

Well done, Kasey!