

Nursing update



Taking charge

As one of the main charge nurses in the CICU at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph, Carol Samsel, RN, often is the answering the phone when someone calls in sick and also the one calling other team members to see if they can fill in.

That can be a frustrating task because you often to make a number of phone calls before reaching anyone, says Carol's nurse manager, DeShaun Willingham, RN. So Carol, who has a reputation for being a go-getter and problem-solver, helped create a voluntary group text system.

"She's our UPC chair so she's always doing something innovative," says Willingham, noting that nearly everyone on the unit has signed up to participate.

The system has been in place for about six weeks and it's already working much better than making phone calls did, Willingham says. "And as we're getting new nurses, they're asking for the forms so they can be included, too."

Plans for launching an Ascension-wide software system that will help with these kinds of scheduling needs are being developed.

"In the meantime, Carol and her co-workers found a temporary solution to meet her unit's needs today," says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer. "Great initiative and great work by everyone involved!"

Rave reviews for NewLife, end of life care

A patient review on Facebook didn't call out the "phenomenal" care provided by one nurse during her recent stay at the NewLife Center at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph. It mentioned all of them.

"Every single nurse I had during my three-day stay for the delivery of my daughter were incredible," she writes. "They were so reassuring and compassionate when my delivery turned out to be an unplanned C-section." Adding to her great experience, she says, was the great communication between the residents and her OB/GYN as well as the efforts made by the anesthesiologist to make her comfortable during her epidural and delivery.

A review by a patient family member whose mother died at the hospital also spoke of the comforting presence provided by the chaplain and the nursing supervisor, who she described as "amazing."

"She was so sincere and got us the information we were looking for," she writes, adding that even though she was not from Wichita, they both were "super," going out of their way to make them feel comfortable during a time of loss.