

Nursing update



A message from Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer for Via Christi Health

As you're hopefully aware by now, Via Christi's Wichita hospitals and physician clinics underwent an extremely successful round of surveys, including a site visit by The Joint Commission.

TJC surveyors visited Via Christi Hospital St. Francis, Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph and Via Christi Rehabilitation Hospital and their affiliated clinics.

But did you know that the lead surveyor was a nurse? He shared that the reason that they began their site visit in the MICU at St. Francis was because he began his career in an MICU and wanted to see what the care was like. I'm proud to say that the MICU team made a great first impression as they demonstrated our continued focus on making safety a priority every day.

The MICU nurses shared the efforts being made to prevent central line associated surgical infections, ventilator associated pneumonia and medication errors and how these and other efforts are helping to keeping their patients safe.

That same connection between the protocols and procedures on our daily checklist and ensuring patient safety was made by nurses throughout the surveyors' three-day visit.

As a result, the surveyors saw what I, along with your nursing leaders, see: A team that uses its mental capabilities and tenacity to work together toward a meaningful goal: Quality patient care. "Patient care here is really, really wonderful," they said. "Your staff is truly engaged."

To that I say, great job—now let's keep it up! You've done great work over the past year in helping your nursing leaders identify and address to any barriers to providing safe, quality care. Please continue to use your daily huddles to identify and resolve safety issues. If you're not familiar with the Making Safety a Priority checklist, take time to review it—or even volunteer to participate in completing it.

If you don't understand why a change is being made, ask how it connects to patient safety. Worrying about dusty sprinkler heads suddenly is a lot more important when you know how that connects to fire control.

Most important of all, continue to do you what you did to make this survey so successful and me so proud of you all: Focus on providing the highly reliable care that protects our patients from harm each and every day.

And once again because I can't say it enough, thank you for all you do in making Via Christi the best place to give and receive care.