

Nursing update



CTICU Unit Practice Council: Improving quality, retention

Sarah Marko, RN, nurse manager, and Dawn Gosnell, APRN-CNS, recently suggested to the CTICU Unit Practice Council that building a class for associates who were new to the unit might be a good idea. “And boy did they run with it!” says Sarah, who last week attended a Structural and Cardiothoracic Care Class put on by the UPC.

They worked for more than two months to put together the two-hour class, which covered most aspects of caring for the CTICU patient.

During the class, Richard Allenbaugh, PA, who serves in the Valve Clinic, shared what goes into selecting and working up candidates for TAVR, MitraClip and other structural heart procedures, as well as information about the various types of valves and procedures.

Next, different members of the UPC discussed care of the patients pre-op, post-op, and emergency situations, facilitated by Dawn. This class brought a lot of knowledge, clarification and standardization to the new nurses as well as to UPC members who have worked here for a long time.

Going forward, the plan is to provide this class at least twice a year and to open it to experienced team members and preceptors to further increase standardization.

Celebrating clinical excellence

As part of our combined Nurses Week and Healthcare Team Week celebration, a Clinical Excellence Showcase will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m Wednesday, May 10, at Via Christi Hospital St. Francis and Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph. If you’d like to show off what your department or unit has been doing to improve patient care quality, patient experience and/or staff recruitment and retention, reserve your table now by emailing colleen.pate@viachristi.org.

Watch for more details about Via Christi’s May 6 – 12 Nurses and Healthcare Team Week celebration activities in next week’s update.

RN recruitment fair

Two experienced registered nurses and 29 new graduates attended last week’s Nursing recruitment fair at St. Francis. Offers are being extended, which if accepted, could bring the total number of nurses recruited at the Wichita events to nearly 100.

Recruitment efforts in Pittsburg are also proving successful, with the hiring of five or more graduate nurses now in process. A spring Nursing recruitment fair is being planned in Manhattan.