



November 22, 2016

Up to the challenge

Leslie Jones, RN, serving in the Neurocritical Care Unit, recently cared for a challenging patient and his family. Leslie professionally set expectations and boundaries for this family, who had difficulty telling the patient “no,” and provided them with the education and support they needed during this time of crisis. Thanks, Leslie, for your dedication and professionalism.

Staff-driven sepsis care improvements

Early recognition is critical in the care of septic patients, so Via Christi has made this a focus in order to positively affect patient outcomes. The CICU team at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph is finalizing protocols to serve as the sepsis unit for our Wichita acute-care hospitals. “Being chosen to serve on such an important system initiative is a real vote of confidence in the advanced skills of our nursing team,” says nursing manager Deshaun Willingham, RN, who is working in close partnership with Sam Antonios, MD, interim chief medical officer, and the intensivists serving at Via Christi.

Docs recognize ED leaders for ‘teamwork, dedication’

CEP America, the physician and provider group that staffs Via Christi’s Wichita Emergency Departments, recognized Pam Albright, Jackie Carnahan and Kris Hill at their Nov. 5 annual meeting. They were nominated for this recognition by the ED medical directors for their teamwork, dedication and support of quality initiatives. Says Kris: “The award belongs to the entire ED team because it takes all our efforts each and every day to generate this type of recognition.”

Working together to reduce readmissions

At a recent clinical leadership development conference, the chief quality and chief nursing officers identified the opportunity to work together across Ascension to reduce readmissions. We developed a root cause analysis form and have deployed that across Ascension in Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Charity Clark implemented it at Via Christi and said, “I didn’t know if it would work, but now we can share strategies across Ascension that will help our patients live productive lives, and avoid hospitalization.”

Staffing update

An additional 15 nursing positions have been approved by the Workforce Committee; these are in addition to the more than 100 current postings for Nursing. The goal is to make sure we have optimal patient care during vacations and times where we have vacancies due to turnover. Between 11/7 and 11/23, we hired 16 RNs, 8 CNAs and one nurse tech. The CNOs are meeting weekly with recruiters to enhance recruitment efforts. There is no plan to reduce IV Therapy. Rumors that we are reducing IV Therapy are untrue.

Recognized by an RN...A special thank you to our teammate

Rob Winegrad, a Respiratory Therapist, stayed vigilant at a ventilated patient’s bedside for over an hour. The patient was very anxious and Rob’s compassion decreased the patient’s anxiety.