



## **Team effort leads to successful implementation of new PCI patient process**

Patients undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention are being recovered by the 4SE nursing team—freeing up CCU beds for more critically ill patients.

Developing and implementing the new post-PCI/Same Day Dismissal process was a team effort.

Initially, project coordinator Ami Patel worked with Dr. Darrell Youngman to research best practices and to develop specific criteria for patients who could safely be cared for on the floor vs. the ICU.

Ami then worked with Cath Lab staff to develop a tracking tool to help identify these patients during their intervention and initiate discussions with the physicians regarding options for patient placement.

“Ami worked tirelessly with the staff on 4SE and the Cath Lab staff to be sure we were all prepared for this change in practice,” says Dara Valdez, Cath Lab manager. “We have made slow headway with this project, but as a result we have had no adverse events regarding patient placement.”

While not a nurse or healthcare provider, Ami is a valuable resource, says Dara.

“When I work with her, she is able to take my clinical knowledge and match it with her business background. This helps keep us systematically on track for new projects, develop professional presentations, and look at every aspect of a project as we move forward.”

She also helped keep the clinical teams informed and engaged. “Ami requested that everyone pledge their commitment to ensuring the project’s success and they did,” says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer for Via Christi.

Ami and Titus DeGraaf, nurse manager for 4SE, also identified the need for real-time information about post-PCI patients who would be coming to the floor. The new technology board they requested now provides that information.

“This is a great example of how using best practices in teamwork and communication can lead to the successful implementation of best practices in clinical care,” says Carla.

## **Congratulations!**

Five Via Christi associates recently received nursing scholarship awards from Credit Union of America: Alice Blanton, patient care specialist, 8SW, St. Francis, Doris Helean, RN, St. Francis ER, Rebekah Snyder, RN, Via Christi Cancer Institute, Johnathan Huynh, certified nurse assistant, St. Teresa, and Nena Ukoha, 8SW, St. Francis. Congratulations and thanks for your ongoing commitment to professional growth and nursing.