

2-2008

The Beat: Febuary 2008

CentraCare Health

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Recommended Citation

CentraCare Health, "The Beat: Febuary 2008" (2008). *The Beat*. 2.
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Do you have an idea for the *Beat*?

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Above all, we must ensure patient safety

Dear Friends:

With National Patient Safety Awareness Week on the horizon, March 2-8, I want to applaud you for your efforts to ensure that our patients are safe while in our care.

We are very good at patient care, as proven by our many awards from external organizations, including the Joint Commission, Solucient 100 Top Hospitals, Magnet and more. However, we are not perfect; we cannot rest until our number of adverse events is zero.

Our highest priority is the health system's first pillar: "CentraCare Health System is committed to preserving and improving the health of and service to our patients."

CentraCare Health System works hard to minimize the occurrence of unwanted consequences. An important part of our commitment is the three CentraCare hospitals' participation in the Minnesota Adverse Health Events Report. Hospitals across Minnesota learn from each others' experiences through the "report, learn, fix" cycle. In the report released in January, St. Cloud Hospital had six adverse events; the Melrose and Long Prairie hospitals had none. (You can find a link to the full report at www.mnhospitals.org.) We carefully review all events to assure that we improve our processes and systems to reduce the potential for recurrence.

The report also helps us be more transparent to the public. Openly sharing data about our successes and our failures fits well with the national health care reform movement. Patients are entitled to know the quality of the services they are getting from their health care providers.

Day after day, employees across the health system are engaged in performance improvement projects designed to enhance patient safety.

In Long Prairie, for example, the hospital has implemented programs to protect patients' skin and to prevent falls. In Melrose, most Pine Villa residents have been moved to private rooms, which minimized clutter, reducing the risk of trips and falls. CentraCare Clinic is working to improve the safety of its immunization program, through standardization and training. St. Cloud Hospital has joined three different "Calls to Action" by the Minnesota Hospital Association, including falls prevention, safe skin and building a safe site procedure program. In addition, in planning for the new wing to be built at St. Cloud Hospital, we are applying "safe design principles" to enhance safety for our patients and our employees.

I applaud this work and the countless other safety projects that are under way across CentraCare Health System. Thank you for providing outstanding care.

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, M.D.
President/CEO, CentraCare Health System

Dr. Richard Collins – The Cooking Cardiologist

Sample the cuisine of Dr. Richard Collins and hear his message about the prevention and reversal of heart disease through diet and lifestyle changes. His heart-healthy recipes have established him as a popular chef on television. This event is from 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Windfeldt Room at CentraCare Health Plaza. The \$10 tickets are on sale at St. Cloud Hospital Gift Gallery, Byerly's service desk, Cash Wise video department and Sauk Rapids Coborn's Superstore service counter. For more information, call (320) 255-5642. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but seating is limited. Sponsored by Central Minnesota Heart Center.

Collaboration enhances pediatric care

Pediatric specialty care will be enhanced in Central Minnesota through collaboration between St. Cloud Hospital/CentraCare Health System, University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview and University of Minnesota Physicians. Representatives signed a collaboration agreement Jan. 25.

Cancer program receives three-year approval

The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has granted a three-year approval with commendation to the cancer program at St. Cloud Hospital. A facility receives approval with commendation following an on-site evaluation by a physician who evaluates for outstanding performance in cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach and quality improvement.

Doctor featured in health care magazine

An article written by Barbi Kaplan-Frenkel, D.O., Coborn Cancer Center, about partial breast irradiation, was published in the December issue of *Minnesota Physician* magazine.

Your gifts can make the difference!

CentraCare Health Foundation kicks off its annual employee campaign April 1. The theme this year, "Small change, big change" signifies the difference your gift, no matter what size, can make to the patients we serve and community programs we support. This past year, 4,772 people invested more than \$7.9 million in our mission of improving care and impacting lives. As reimbursement for health care continues to decline, providing top-quality care for patients becomes more challenging and would not be possible without help from generous donors like you. For more information on how you can support the mission of CentraCare Health Foundation, call (320) 240-2810.

Diabetes Health Professional Update

The CentraCare Diabetes Center is hosting the annual Diabetes Health Professional Update on April 22 at the CentraCare Health Plaza. Please contact the St. Cloud Hospital Education office at (320) 255-5642 for registration information.

Save a life with CPR

Free CPR training for all heart disease patients, family members and friends will take place from 2-3 p.m. Mondays and from 5-6 p.m. Thursdays, in the Telemetry Unit Family Lounge at St. Cloud Hospital. Following the program, attendees may purchase a \$20 training kit to take home. For more information, please call (320) 251-2700, ext. 54174.

CentraCare Surgery Center receives certification

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have certified the CentraCare Surgery Center at CentraCare Health Plaza. Patients covered by Medicare and Medicaid, as well as self-pay patients and most insurances may have procedures performed at the Surgery Center. For more information, call (320) 229-5107.

St. Cloud Hospital achieves re-accreditation

St. Cloud Hospital has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety. The hospital has been accredited since 1956. St. Cloud Hospital's Home Care and Behavioral Health programs also earned accreditation.

CentraCare Clinic Genetics department

The Genetics team moved to its new location within the Women & Family Specialty Center at CentraCare Health Plaza. David Tilstra, M.D., and Joy Gustin, M.S., genetic counselor, provide services to prenatal, pediatric and adult (male and female) patients. For more information, call (320) 654-3654.

Clara's House receives award

Clara's House received the 2007 Minnesota Hospital Association's Community Benefit Award. The program provides individualized care for children and adolescents with behavioral health problems.

St. Cloud Hospital Library

The St. Cloud Hospital Health Sciences Library, complete with an online A to Z list of full text journals, is available to all employees, patients and family members from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and around the clock for those with card access. The library is located in C lobby on the main floor of the hospital, and includes inter-library loan with other regional libraries. In addition to research materials, the library also has Internet access available for personal e-mail, free printing and free copying for work-related materials/documents (personal copies are 10 cents per page). In order to better serve customers, beverages are now allowed, so feel free to bring in coffee or soda, relax and catch up on your reading.