

2-2009

The Beat: Febuary 2009

CentraCare Health

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Ensuring safety, one patient at a time



Dear Friends:

The safety precautions that you take with every patient, every day are incredibly important. With National Patient Safety Week on the horizon March 8-14, it is a good time to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our patients from harm.

There is no substitute for double- and triple-checking a prescription or a medical record number. We must never skip the steps of marking a surgical site and pausing before making an incision. We always must ask the questions to which we think we know the answers.

Our many awards, such as 100 Top Hospital and Magnet recognition, validate that we provide great care. However, we still have a lot of work to do, as evidenced by our increased number of events in the Minnesota Adverse Health Events Report released in January. (You can find a link to the full Minnesota Adverse Health Events Report at www.health.state.mn.us/patientsafety/.)

Long Prairie Memorial had one adverse event listed in the report. Melrose Area Hospital had none. St. Cloud Hospital, which provides a broader scope of services and far more patients than our rural hospitals, had 18. That was an increase from six in 2008. We can attribute much of that increase to state changes in category definitions. However, we cannot use that as an excuse.

We must remain vigilant as we care for patients. We must dedicate ourselves to eliminating adverse events.

To do so, we must continue to learn from the experiences of other hospitals, which is the intent of the reporting process.

We also must continue to learn from the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) "Calls to Action" program, which is designed to improve patient safety statewide. Our CentraCare hospitals participate in these MHA efforts, including Safe Count, Safe Site, Safe Skin and Safe from Falls.

In addition to helping us learn, the Adverse Health Events Report makes us more transparent to the public. Our patients and their families have the right to know the quality of the services we provide.

Thank you for your commitment to patient safety, for ensuring the best for those we serve.

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, MD
President, CentraCare Health System

St. Cloud Hospital achieves Magnet re-designation!

St. Cloud Hospital has received re-designation as a Magnet hospital, the second Minnesota hospital and one of only 2 percent of hospitals nationwide, to achieve Magnet re-designation. The Magnet award, given by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, is the highest national and international recognition of excellence in the delivery of nursing services.

St. Cloud Hospital received its initial designation in 2004. There are 316 Magnet hospitals in 43 states and the District of Columbia. There currently are six Magnet hospitals in Minnesota: St. Cloud Hospital, the Mayo College of Medicine, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Medical Center – Fairview, Fairview Ridges Hospital, and Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

Patient Transfer Line

The Women & Children's Center takes part in St. Cloud Hospital's Patient Transfer Line, making patient transfers from outlying hospitals simpler. Referring physicians simply call (888) 387-2862 to facilitate patient transfers to St. Cloud Hospital for specialty care. Since inception, call volume has continued to grow with more than 400 patient transfer calls each month.

Archbishop blesses Monticello chapel

St. Benedict's Senior Community - Monticello was honored to have Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, S.T.D., from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, bless the new chapel Jan. 17. The chapel was part of the recent expansion, which included a movie theatre, general store, fitness center and additional memory care and assisted-living apartments. Catholic and Protestant services are scheduled weekly in the chapel for our residents, who sometimes cannot attend their own churches.

St. Cloud Hospital history posted on CentraNet

Since the 1850s when the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict first arrived in St. Cloud, there has been profound devotion and unwavering faith to provide top-notch health care in Central Minnesota. In celebration of the hospital's 123rd anniversary and in order to give employees an opportunity to read about the hospital's fascinating story, St. Cloud Hospital's history is available on CentraNet.

Heart Center cardiologists provide care in Brainerd

CentraCare Health System is collaborating with Brainerd Lakes Health and St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Heart Center to develop a comprehensive cardiovascular program at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd. As part of this effort, cardiologists from the Central Minnesota Heart Center at St. Cloud Hospital are seeing patients at Brainerd Medical Center and St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Order your own lab tests

CentraCare Laboratory Services offers CentraCare Health System employees, their families, and the general public the opportunity to order their own laboratory tests from a newly expanded menu. To view the complete Direct Access Testing menu, go to CentraNet and click on the Messenger tab, or visit www.centracare.com and click on the Specialty Centers tab.

Dr. Kulus receives excellence award

Congratulations to Pediatrician Kathleen Kulus, MD, CentraCare Clinic - Women & Children, who was honored Jan. 8 with the Physician of Excellence award. The award is recognition by peers of an exemplary work ethic.



Long Prairie welcomes new administrator

Dan Swenson, MBA, will begin his new position as administrator of Long Prairie Memorial Hospital and Home March 2. Swenson has had positions at Appleton Area Health Services and Cooperstown Medical Center in Cooperstown, N.D. Swenson has experience in overall leadership, strategic planning, operations, medical staff development and recruitment.



Drive-thru colon cancer screening

In recognition of Colon Cancer Awareness Month, Coborn Cancer Center is offering free screenings for colorectal cancer. Simply pick up an immunochemical fecal occult blood test (iFOBT) kit at the CentraCare Pharmacy at St. Cloud Hospital or Coborn Cancer Center, complete and mail back. Your results will be sent to you. It is free, simple and does not require dietary or medication restrictions. One kit per person. Limited to the first 500 people. All returned completed kits will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Coborn's gift card. This test does not replace a colonoscopy, which is the best method to detect colorectal cancer. To schedule your colonoscopy, please call CentraCare Digestive Center at (320) 229-4916. For more information, please call (320) 229-5199, ext. 70855.



Clinic participated in national Hib screening

CentraCare Clinic - Women & Children participated with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to survey children to see if they are carriers of Haemophilus influenza type B, also known as Hib. The staff screened children ages 6 weeks to 5 years with throat swabs. Clinics in Rochester, Bemidji, Willmar, Grand Rapids and the Twin Cities also participated.