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Published for the employees, medical staff and volunteers of Saint Cloud Hospital.

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EndoSpeak! Features Reports In A FLASH!



■ With the new EndoSpeak! system Scot Hutton, M.D., St. Cloud Clinic of Internal Medicine, can dictate his findings after finishing an exam and have a completed report ready to sign in just minutes.

I imagine a complete medical report generated in the time it takes to dictate the information. Sound like an impossible dream?

Not with the new Olympus EndoSpeak! system in endoscopy.

According to Carol Primus, endoscopy manager, EndoSpeak! is just that fast. "Once it's dictated, the report is complete and printed," Primus said.

Because the program is voice-activated, everyone who uses the system must go through almost four hours of voice training. This training exercise requires users to repeat words several times so the computer can memorize the user's voice.

"The system is very easy to use," Primus said. "The program contains a list of prompts. As the physician moves through the report he or she is asked to fill in the blanks with the specifics of that particular patient's exam."

Once the dictation is complete, the physician can request a letter for the referring physician plus as many copies of the report as necessary.

Scot Hutton, M.D. uses the new system almost exclusively. "Because the report is generated immediately after dictation, there's virtually no paper shuffling," he said. "And that means the referring physician gets the information much faster."

Primus said she's really noticed a difference with patients coming in from outlying areas. "Now we can send the report back with the patient without rushing it through medical records."

Bringing Up Baby

The Family Birthing Center (FBC) doesn't just deliver babies. It also helps parents make the transition to life with a baby.

Each day, the FBC offers an optional 45 minute class in which parents learn some basics about how to deal with a new baby. And since October 1 the hospital has been hosting further classes in collaboration with local school districts. These free classes help keep families on the right track parenting their babies, and serve as a channel into school district parenting programs.

About four couples a day attend the FBC class, which was devised by maternal child educator Terri McCaffrey. Rather than focusing on physical needs, which are covered one on one by the nurse, the class is designed to assist parents in interacting socially with their babies. "We show parents some calming techniques, and talk about the individualness of babies.

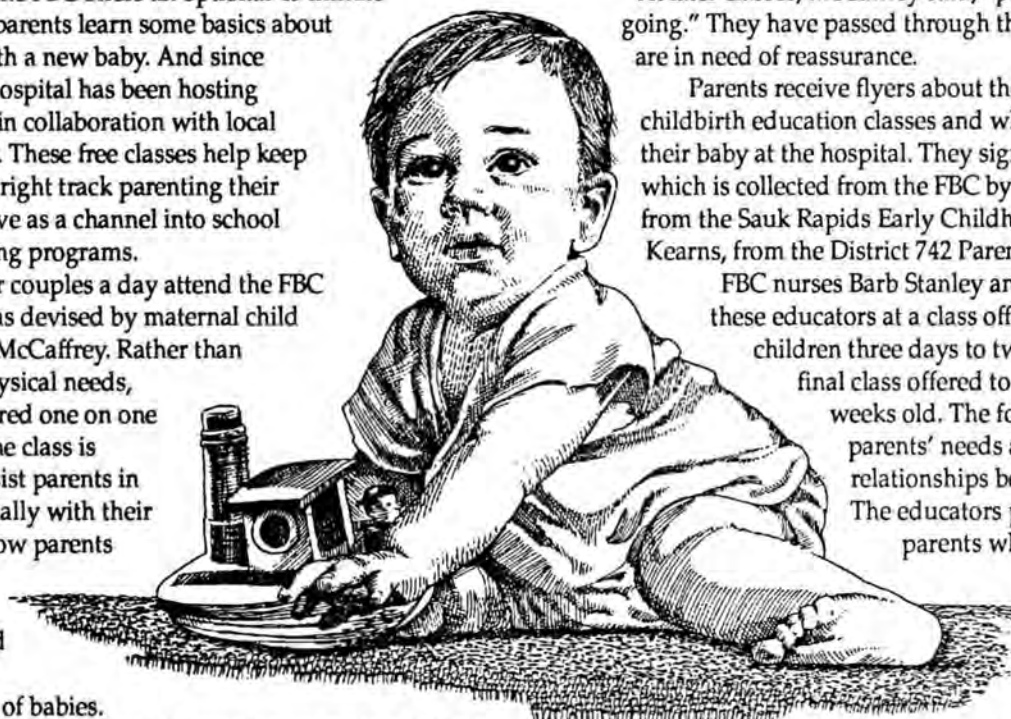
We show them how a day old baby will respond to a rattle; it

will turn its head. We talk about the way babies respond to different colors at different stages; when they are born they respond to black and white, not pastels. We let parents know what is coming as their baby grows, so they are better prepared in meeting the needs of the baby."

At later classes, McCaffrey said, "parents tell us how it's going." They have passed through the honeymoon stage, and are in need of reassurance.

Parents receive flyers about the second class at childbirth education classes and when they give birth to their baby at the hospital. They sign a registration card which is collected from the FBC by either Patsy Murphy, from the Sauk Rapids Early Childhood Program, or Ellen Kearns, from the District 742 Parent-Child Programs.

FBC nurses Barb Stanley and Dona Haines assist these educators at a class offered to parents of children three days to two weeks old, and at a final class offered to parents of infants 4 to 6 weeks old. The focus of these classes is the parents' needs and on attachment and relationships between child and parent. The educators plan to follow up on parents who enroll in the program at 4 months and 7 months, and hope to enroll them in school district classes that can help keep the family developing nicely.



Once again, December is upon us and you as Saint Cloud Hospital employees have the opportunity to review your benefits and make changes to your benefit plans for 1991. Information packets were mailed to your homes in mid-November, outlining plan and contribution changes for the coming year. Please review this information and join us at the BENEFITS OPEN HOUSE.

The BENEFITS OPEN HOUSE will be held in Riverfront C on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 5th, 6th and 7th. Times are posted at various locations around the hospital. Information and representatives from many of our benefit plans/programs will be available to answer questions and help you with your benefit planning for 1991.

BENEFIT WISE

1991 Benefit planning Checklist

The following is a checklist of some items you may want to review in planning for the 1991 benefit year.

Medical Coverage

Open enrollment is from 11/26/90 to 12/21/90. You may wish to make changes to your medical coverage, such as change plans, add dependents, or enroll if you do not currently have coverage. (To be eligible for coverage, you must be hired for 32 hours per pay period.)

Medical/Dependent Care Expense Reimbursement

If you wish to participate during 1991 you must complete an enrollment form by 12/21/90.

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*You, your family and
friends are invited to
attend the*

2nd Annual Festival of Lights

December 4, 1990
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Outside the hospital's
main entrance

Experience the
spectacular display of
Christmas lights outlining
the Saint Cloud Hospital.
Enjoy Christmas caroling
along with our own
hospital employee chorus.
Delight in free, hot,
delicious refreshments.
Take a ride on the
horse drawn trolley from
6 - 7:30 p.m. for only
\$1 per person.

***It's our Thank You
to the people of St. Cloud
for supporting us
this past year.***

Quick: What does PAAC Stand For?

There is a mystery
lurking in the depths of
the hospital somewhere
between the adminis-
tration and the personnel.

It is called the PAAC.

PAAC: Personnel Advisory and Activities Committee. The purpose of the PAAC is to provide a means of communication between the personnel and administration. Each department has a representative who relays messages from the department's personnel to the advisory committee. Whether the message be a complaint about the parking situation or a request for a broom ball tournament, the PAAC is there to get answers for the personnel and assist in the planning and promotion of various activities for the entertainment, relaxation and pleasure of employees and their families.

However, there is a more serious side to the PAAC. If there is a complaint regarding a hospital wide issue, it can be given to a representative to bring up at the monthly meetings. "Anyone can bring a concern to their representative, it doesn't matter if you're a manager or a dishwasher," said Rosie Sauve, nutrition services. Sauve has been involved in the PAAC for four years as a representative as well as a participant in activities.

The PAAC should not be used to skip over management. Terry Bradford, director of human resources said, "PAAC is not a way to work around management. It's important to work with your manager and management chain on personal or department issues. The next step would be to contact human resources. PAAC has a different, more general goal of a forum for hospital wide issues to be introduced and reviewed. Discussions on the parking situation have been a good example of how the PAAC should be used.

"With the PAAC, you have the ability to be able to share concerns,

recommendations, feelings and ideas with the people you work and with other units in SCH," he added.

All major departments vote for a representative and an alternate to represent them at the monthly meetings. One half of the representatives are elected each year, for a two year term. Officers elected by the members, serve a one-year term.

Rosie Sauve's favorite benefits offered by the PAAC are the reduced price tickets to Twins games. "I'm so much into sports—They're always on my mind," she said.

The PAAC has an activities budget that covers a wide range of entertainment. Twin city attractions with bus transportation are offered at reduced rates

as well as a fishing derby, bowling league banquet, employee dance, and sponsorship of many volleyball, softball and basketball teams. Out of state entertainments are also available through PAAC at reduced rates.

Gerri Roman, LPN, mental health services, is the chairperson of PAAC. As such, she has direct access to the executive council at monthly meetings. "I personally feel that PAAC is an

important part of our hospital. It is an opportunity for your concerns to be resolved and also a direct route to the executive council," she said. "I have been impressed with the interest and attention that John Frobenius and the entire executive council give to all the concerns that I have brought them," she added.

PAAC activity tickets are available by stopping by human resources, 5th floor, during ticket hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8 to 9 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you are wondering what events are coming up call extension 3627 for a voice mail message for all current events.

Keep in touch with your representative. The strength of the PAAC is as great as the involvement of its people.

**"It's important to
work with your
manager and
management chain
on personal or
department
issues...
PAAC has a
different, more
general goal."**

1 Annuity (TDA) Participants
your TDA status with the Copeland
re.

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the number of deductions you are claiming.
Copeland representative if you need additional

nal information and forms are available in the
orce center on 5 North.

Parking Plan Prioritizes Patients

Well, it's working. As evidenced by empty parking stalls in the North lot, the shuttle system has succeeded in clearing the parking crunch and making room for patients and visitors. And early this month Bill Becker, safety & security manager, made changes to the patient/visitor parking policy. The approximately 100 spots initially reserved in the North lot for patients and visitors were moved closer to the hospital.

Beginning December 3, lots A, B and part of the North lot were reserved to accommodate patients and visitors. "We were one of the only employers that gave employees the closest parking spots," he said. "We needed to better cater to the needs of our clients."

According to Becker, there are 187 cars on average at Whitney daily. That number has remained strong throughout the first month of operation. In fact, it's even increasing, Becker said.

And that's good news because construction plans for additional decks on

the existing ramp and the new ramp are proceeding slowly.

"We are making progress," Becker said. "We've just had to modify the plans several times. Right now we're looking at a completion date on the additional decks of July 1991." The new ramp will be completed sometime in 1992.

Construction on both projects is expected to begin this spring. And, with the exception of three weeks when the top deck will be closed, the existing ramp will remain open during the construction. When the project is complete the expanded ramp will be able to accommodate approximately 250 additional cars.

NEW MANAGEMENT



Mary Jo (M.J.) Swanson has been hired as assistant manager in the emergency trauma center. Swanson comes to us from Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids.

Joyce Glatzmaier has taken the position of assistant manager, dialysis. Prior to her promotion Glatzmaier was an R.N. on the kidney dialysis unit.



PROMOTIONS

Debra Eisenschenk, endoscope cleaner, endoscopy, to nursing assistant, critical care unit.

Kathleen Kost, laundry aide, laundry, to dryer operator.

Clare McIntyre, food service aide, nutrition services, to baker.

Monica Pelzer, nursing supervisor (trn.), nursing support, to nursing supervisor.

Mary Rudolph, staff radiographer, radiology, to vascular imaging tech.

Carol Schneider, laundry aide, laundry, to dryer operator.

Vincent Steiner, ETC assistant, ETC, to computer operator, information services.

Jane Vortherms, registered nurse, 4 South, to oncology educator, nursing education & research.

Michelle Witzman, housekeeping aide, environmental services, to staffing coordinator (trn.), staffing/scheduling.

Mary Listul, lead laundry aide, laundry, to asst. supervisor.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Roberta Basol, critical care educator, was named Central Minnesota Area Chapter of AACN Critical Care Nurse of the Year.

Ron Fligge, chief respiratory therapist, has been elected President-Elect of the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care.

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