Hospital Improving Patient Flow in Emergency Department

Unfortunately, when this happens, wait as long as four hours. Vice President for Neurosurgery and national and local issue,” says Ms. Gates.

Dramatic changes in the ways Jefferson Hospital has introduced several interdepartmental collaboration in emergency department. The result has been to increase the time for patients to be examined or dramatically reducing the waiting number of patient visits while ED cases to other hospitals because when Fire and Rescue “divert” new ED cases to other hospitals because what the City Fire and Rescue units call “diversions,” says Ms. Gates. “Divisions,” she explains, occur when Fire and Rescue “divert” new ED cases to other hospitals because Jefferson’s ED is too full.

Hospital administrators believe that its opening will complete the new “Express” method of redesigning patient flow to improve patient care, traffic and satisfaction. “Our goal is to totally eliminate what the City Fire and Rescue units call ‘diversions,’” says Ms. Gates. “Divisions,” she explains, occur when Fire and Rescue “divert” new ED cases to other hospitals because Jefferson’s ED is too full.

Ms. Gates credits the multidisciplinary commitment and interdepartmental collaboration in facilitating and implementing the Emergency Department changes.

Introducing Flexible Nurse Staffing Pool

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital is introducing a new concept that will give nurses increased flexibility. A staffing pool which you can apply for immediately will begin operation November 1. The pool is using a multi-tiered payment approach so that nurses willing to commit additional hours in the area of greatest need will benefit from higher rates of pay.

The pool was created as a result of the feedback from nursing Focus Groups conducted last year and further articulated by the multidisciplinary Rapid Design Teams. Schedules are designed to fit into busy lifestyles, not fixed or structured, and can accommodate personal changes with flexibility and choices.

The program is another initiative by the hospital to help relieve nurse staffing issues. Our patients will benefit by having a Jefferson nurse who is already knowledgeable about our systems and processes of care.

Nurses can apply by contacting Mary Maczcz, RN, MSN, Nurse Recruitment, at 1-800-242-7783 or by emailing her at Nurse.Recruitment@mail.fiu.edu

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has introduced several dramatic changes in the ways patients progress through the Emergency Department (ED). The result has been to increase the number of patient visits while dramatically reducing the waiting time for patients to be examined or tested.

“Overcrowding in Emergency Departments has become a serious national and local issue,” says Eleanor Gates, RN, MSN, Hospital Vice President for Neurosurgery and Trauma. “At some hospitals, patients wait as long as four hours. Unfortunately, when this happens, those people may walk out without being evaluated or treated. We want to lessen the chances of that happening at Jefferson.”

Coinciding with the introduction of a new telemetry admission unit with eight monitored beds on 13 Thompson in July, the number of daily patient visits to the ED is up significantly from the normal average of 160. Ms. Gates says, “Reducing ED waiting time allows us to see and evaluate more patients,” Ms. Gates explains. The effect is expected to be even more dramatic in November when a new Medical/Surgical unit 333 regular beds for ED patients opens on 13 Thompson.

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Health News

You can sign up now for three ticketed special events at the second Philadelphia Book Festival, running from Friday, October 18, to Saturday, October 20. Presented by the Women’s Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the Festival will again be held at the Benjamin Franklin House, 334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

A admission is free.

Throughout the three-day event, you can attend writing and poetry workshops, meet new author’s every day and discuss their books. Select audio books, children’s books, cookbooks, fiction, mysteries, science fiction and self-help books. Have your books signed and chat with the author. Bring the kids for Children’s Day on Saturday, October 19, and catch a cooking demonstration on Sunday, October 20.

To purchase tickets, call 1-866-JEFF-NO. For more information, and a complete list of activities and information on author’s, visit the event’s web site at www.PhiladelphiaBookFestival.com

Come to the Bigger, Better Second Philadelphia Book Festival October 18 to 20

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Special Employee Day

In addition to the Festival at the Ben Franklin House, the Philadelphia Book Festival will make a special appearance at Jefferson Hospital’s Atrium Café, on Friday, October 18, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a complete array of books, tapes and toys for employees’ shopping convenience. Payroll deduction will be available for purchases. Employees will receive a comprehensive flyer listing all the presenters and events with Ocotber 10 paychecks.

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Jeffersonians Again Walk for Life

Getting set to start their “Big Walk” are, standing from left, Sharon Zalis, holding her daughter Carly, 2 1/2, and Toni Mancini, staff nurse in Jefferson’s NICU. From right are, Mrs. Worthington and her daughter, Carly, 2 1/2; and Marcella, 5 1/2, in stroller. "We saw some with his wife, Patricia H. Worthington, RN, runners participating in all 25 Distance Runs, and her with her daughter Carly, 2 1/2, and Toni Mancini, staff nurse in Jefferson’s NICU. From right are, Mrs. Worthington and her daughter, Carly, 2 1/2; and Marcella, 5 1/2, in stroller. "We saw..."
Researchers Link Gene to Alcoholic’s Vulnerability to Heart Failure

Some alcoholics can drink mostly what they want and their hearts stay perfectly fine. For others, chronic alcoholism can have devastating effects, including a form of heart failure known as cardiomyopathy.

Now, researchers at Jefferson Medical College’s Hospital Clinic in Barcelona have pinpointed what they think may help explain such disparities. They have found that alcoholics who carry a certain form of a particular enzyme are more likely than other alcoholics who don’t have the form to develop heart failure; even when both groups have drunk the same amount of alcohol over a lifetime.

“It’s the first real demonstration of genetic vulnerability to alcohol-induced tissue damage in the heart,” says Emmanuel Rubin, M.D., Professor and Chair of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Jefferson Medical College.

The findings open up the possibility for uncovering other such genetic predispositions for a number of alcohol-related diseases. “Chronic alcoholism is associated with diseases of many organs, such as the liver and the brain -- not just the heart,” he notes.

Dr. Rubin and his colleagues at the University of Barcelona reported the study in the September 3 in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

For more information, visit www.jeffersonhospital.org.

Employee Walking Marathon to End Stroke

Gwendolyn M. Watkins, of Human Resources, an employee for 22 years, is reaching out to co-workers to help her one-person effort to end stroke.

She will walk in the Train To End Stroke Marathon in January 2003 at Walt Disney World. The deadline to reach her goal to raise $2,800 is October 29.

“My participating is the perfect opportunity to pay tribute to my ‘Stroke Heros’,” Gregory Johnson, an employee in the Department of Information Systems, who has also worked at Jefferson for 22 years,” says M.S. Watkins.

To support Ms. Watkins’ efforts, contact her at 2-3791 or GwendolynM.Watkins@mail.tju.edu

Al Worthington Transforming Hospital’s Medical Records
To Visionary Health Information Management

JeffREDS
October 1, 2002

All of the Jefferson community are invited to attend an Open House held by the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital’s Center for Integrative Medicine (CIM) at the center’s new facilities at 1215 Gibson Building, from 4 to 6 p.m., October 17. CIM staff will be available to discuss their disciplines and conduct tours. For more information, contact Donna Smith, CIM, at 2-3165.

“I feel so ‘stressed out’. If the source of my stress were just one thing, I could make a change, but it is everything…just stuff piling up. I don’t know where to start.”

To learn strategies for coping, contact FirstCALL, Your Employee Assistance Program, at 1-800-382-1237.