

Hospitals borrow from military to better serve moms-to-be

Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and the University of Michigan Health System are among 16 centers across the nation taking part in a study that uses a teamwork system borrowed from military aviation to enhance patient care.

The system, known as MedTeams, draws on lessons learned in the world of military aviation, another high-stress, high-stakes work environment. The goal is to improve patient safety, patient satisfaction and employee satisfaction in labor-and-delivery units by applying teamwork skills training. In the military, teamwork intervention techniques resulted in a 40-percent reduction in preventable errors, saving lives and millions of dollars each year.

MedTeams developed by

Dynamics Research Corp., incorporates more than two decades of aviation team research and development. A recognized leader in safety, the aviation industry has established teamwork as essential to human error prevention.

As part of the 12-month study, physicians, nurses and other health care providers involved in direct patient care have received training in teamwork skills, followed by "on-the-job" training and coaching. The data-collection portion of the study will run through this fall.

"We hope to prove that labor-and-delivery units that are structured into work teams with teamwork training skills will demonstrate better clinical unit performance," says Dr. Cosmas Van de Ven, the principal investigator for the project at the University of Michigan.

The teams have been assigned a limited number of patients to ensure that team members are always aware of patient status and are able to monitor the actions of fellow team members. The intent is to enhance coordination of patient care and communication among providers. The program streamlines patient care by dividing health care staff into smaller "core" teams differentiated by colored badges. Patients are assigned to that team from the time they are admitted to the labor and delivery unit. Core teams are made up of nurses and attending physicians. The number of caregivers will vary based on patient volumes, and each patient is assigned to a

team based on her attending physician. Team members care for patients in a collaborative and interactive method, providing a safer delivery.

MedTeams training focuses on five elements of teamwork: developing and maintaining team structure and climate; planning and problem solving; communication; managing workload; and improving team skills. These elements are addressed through a number of specific teamwork behaviors such as error monitoring. This technique teaches all providers, regardless of position, how to actively monitor the actions of other team members to prevent errors.

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MEDICAL NEWSMAKERS

RADIATION ONCOLOGIST

Ronald B. Irwin, M.D., executive vice president and chief medical officer of the Beaumont Hospitals, recently announced the appointment of radiation oncologist Frank A. Vicini, M.D., to the position of associate chief of Oncology Services.

A former breast cancer fellow at the Harvard Medical School, Vicini is internationally recognized for his research of brachytherapy (radiation implants) and delivering radiation with greater precision for women with early-stage breast cancer.

Vicini replaces Irwin in the top cancer position. He assumes his new job July 1.

In her new position, Stacer is responsible for the overall operation of the hospice program, a part of Beaumont Home Health Services. Her duties include planning, developing, implementing and managing the program to best serve the needs of patient needs in the community.

NEW KARMANOS CIO

John Ruckdeschel, M.D., president and chief executive officer of the Detroit-based Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, has appointed Richard L.H. Rauscher as vice president of Information Technology (IT) and Biomedical Informatics and chief information officer. In this position, Rauscher is responsible for (the strategic direction of) the Institute's information systems and all aspects of support for its research and clinical initiatives.

"We are committed to providing patients in metro Detroit with the best cancer research and treatment available. An excellent and efficient IT system is key to supporting that mission," said Ruckdeschel. "Richard is a proven leader in the development of information systems. I'm confident that under Richard's leadership, our IT system will be among the best cancer center systems nationwide."

"I am delighted to be here at

the Karmanos Cancer Institute and working with Jack again," says Rauscher. "Among our top-level IT objectives is revamping the Institute's Web site to make it more accessible for patients, doctors and our general community."

Rauscher holds a B.A. in computer science from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., and a M.S. in computer science from the University of South Florida in Tampa Bay, Fla. Rauscher is a member of the American Medical Informatics Association and presents regularly at academic conferences on the design of effective and reliable IT systems for use in healthcare.

RESEARCHER HONORED

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute researcher and professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Avraham Raz, Ph.D., has been recognized by his peers for more than two decades in cancer research and discovery. The Metastasis Research Society, an international nonprofit organization, has honored Raz with the Faget-Ewing Award for his many years of work in helping to find a cure for cancer.

"The Karmanos Cancer Institute is nationally recognized for its outstanding cancer research and clinical excellence, and Dr. Raz is one of the reasons why," said John C. Ruckdeschel, M.D., director and chief executive officer.

INTERNSHIP

Erin Murfey, a recent graduate of Georgetown University Medical School, is beginning a rotating internship at Beaumont Hospital in the emergency room. Murfey, a Livonia resident, is the daughter of Chris and Janis Murfey and a graduate of Churehill High School and Hillsdale College.

HOSPICE DIRECTOR

Beaumont Hospital has announced the appointment of Betty Stacer, R.N., as director of Beaumont Hospice. Prior to taking over as director, she served five years as a hospice

DIABETES

plans and resources to help you plan a trip and while you're traveling.

Grunberger said lifestyle changes are the first step in "leading a normal life with diabetes not for diabetes."

There are ongoing research studies and trials being performed at the Diabetes Institute in Bloomfield Hills where volunteers are being sought.

"The face of diabetes has changed over the last 10 years. It used to be found in a much older

population of people but now we're seeing a faster growing segment of patients in the 30 to 45 year range and something we've never seen before... children. The best plan of action is change. People need to recognize how preventable the development of this illness can be and start eating better and exercising more."

David Kruger's book can be found at www.amazon.com. For more information about research opportunities for volunteer patients or the medical services the Diabetes Institute in Bloomfield Hills offers, call (248) 335-7740. To obtain local information through the American Diabetes Association visit www.diabetes.org and type in your ZIP code.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE

Breastfeeding
La Leche League of Livonia meets monthly at 10 a.m. (June 17) on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings take place in public facilities and private homes. For more information or for breastfeeding support, call Sarah at (734) 256-0632.

JULY

Weight Control support
The kick-off meeting for a Weight Control Support Group will be 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, at New Horizons Medical Center, 1925 Westland, Livonia. Call (248) 474-4900. Speakers will include Dr. Marc Mastropolo and Gain Main. This group is intended primarily for people who previously had or are scheduled for or interested in the Lap Band or other bariatric surgery. Everyone, even those with a general interest, is welcome to attend. At the meeting, organizers will decide what direction to take.

Life Walk 2003
The Life Walk 2003 Walk and Fun Run will be held 9 a.m. July 26 at Belle Isle in Detroit. Entry fee is \$15 and

includes a T-shirt plus prizes, raffle gifts and more. The 5K Fun Run and Walk (optional one mile route available) is presented by Gift of Life Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) and Michigan Coalition on Donation (MCD). To register, call (800) 482-4861.

AUGUST

Seminar
Francesco Garripoli will be coming Aug. 15 to conduct a two-day seminar on O-Gang at 3825 Ann Arbor Road (one mile east of I-75) at the Taoski Tai Chi Studio. He has conducted this class previously and people of all ages and health conditions found it beneficial. His national television project was co-producing and co-directing the 22-part PBS series "Tai Chi INNERWAVE." Francesco's interest in complementary medicine goes back over 20 years when he left a university as a pre-med student and went to study in Hawaii with a renowned doctor trained in integrative Eastern healing and known for his extraordinary medical results.

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