

extra

news for
Owensboro
Medical Health
System employees

Our Mission is to heal the sick and to improve the health of our community. January 14, 2008

Building the OMHS workforce

The over 3,000 employees that make up the OMHS home team carry out our mission each day – to heal the sick and to improve the health of our community. This is an increase of over 1,000 employees since the consolidation of Owensboro Daviess County Hospital and Mercy Hospital in 1995.

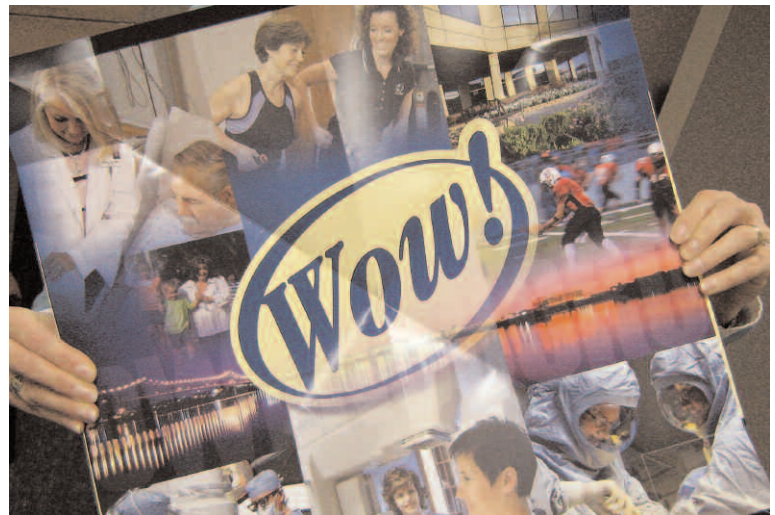
With plans to add several hundred more in the next five years, organized efforts to recruit qualified individuals have become key. Even with a diverse medical staff that includes nearly 200 physicians practicing in over three dozen specialties, OMHS continues to diligently recruit primary care doctors and physician specialists to practice in Owensboro. Current recruitment goals include hiring 50 additional physicians and 500 more nurses, technicians, technologists and other support staff over the next five years.

"The vision of the recruiting effort is on finding qualified people for providing excellent care in our community," commented OMHS Recruiter Erin Warren. Erin's role focuses primarily on the recruitment of nurses and other medical professionals. Physician recruitment efforts at OMHS are handled by Dianne Miles and Ginny Ball.

Recruitment efforts have expanded in recent years beyond western Kentucky to include the entire state. Even with the increase in geographic coverage, OMHS is still focusing heavily on recruiting right here at home as well.

OMHS invests heavily in its workforce by providing tuition reimbursement and learning programs that enable employees to refine, update and expand their skills. One example is the work-based degree program made possible by the partnership between OMHS and Owensboro Community and Technical College.

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Above is a portion of the "Wow!" brochure, developed to give potential employees a better idea of the OMHS Mission, Vision and Core Commitments, in addition to the variety of services our health system offers. The piece is available complete with a DVD that includes comments from current employees, in addition to information on the City of Owensboro.

OMHS nurses excel at meeting advance directive target

While advance directive inquiries are no longer an OMHS Success Sharing goal, OMHS nurses have continued to exceed targets, with 92 to 100 percent of charts audited having patient's advance directive wishes known. In order to meet the goal, nurses are asking their patients about their advance directive and helping link them with the resources available at OMHS when necessary.

Advance directives are legal documents that allow patients to convey their decisions related to their end-of-life care ahead of time. They provide a way for patients to communicate their wishes, eliminating confusion for family, friends and healthcare professionals responsible for their care, in the event that they become unable to communicate for themselves.

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Register on-line now for your 2008 HIP screening!

From front: OMHS workforce

OCTC@OMHS offers a nursing curriculum that uses a combination of both online and traditional courses taught on the OMHS campus. The program is open to 25 employees each school year. Once students receive their degree they make a commitment to work at the hospital for three years after graduation.

Did you know that incentives are also in place for any full time OMHS employee that recruits a new nurse to OMHS? If you know of a nurse who may be interested in exploring a career with our organization, contact Erin Warren at warrene@omhs.org or at 688-7708.

For all other available positions at OMHS, direct your friends and family to www.omhs.org. The "Employment Opportunities" link on the homepage offers complete up-to-date job listings and an online application.



HIPAA Corner

Question:

Your coworker is new on the job and can't get his user ID and password to work. He asks if you can help. What should you do?

- A. Advise him to call the help desk and give him the phone number
- B. Give him your user ID and password since he has the same access as you
- C. Give him your user ID and password, but change the password later

Log on with your user ID and password and let him use your access, but don't tell him your password

- E. Tell him the same thing happened when you were new

Answer: A

We place great importance on the confidentiality and security of our patient's information. These reminders are designed to refresh your memory about your role in information security.

If you have any questions or concerns related to information privacy or security, please contact DeAnn Tucker at 688-1090 or Mark Miller at 852-8525.

Getting ready for Joint Commission Spring 2008 survey

Question:

True or False: The Joint Commission defines a sentinel event as "the unexpected death, serious physical or psychological injury, or the risk thereof."

Answer:

True.

Question:

What are examples of sentinel events?

Answer:

Examples of sentinel events could include (but are not limited to) the unanticipated death of a full term infant, a hemolytic transfusion reaction or a patient suicide.

Question:

What are some of the most frequently occurring sentinel events?

Answer:

On a national scale, the sentinel events that are seen most often include patient suicides, injuries from restraint use, wrong site surgery, medication errors and operative complications.

WKU to offer stats course in spring

Western Kentucky University (WKU) will be offering PH 520, Vital and Medical Stats starting in January 2008.

The course will be offered to students beginning the week of January 22, on the Owensboro Community and Technical College campus. The class will meet on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m.

To register for the course, students must complete the application for WKU graduate school (www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Graduate/). The CRN number for registration is also required. The CRN for this course is 33288.

For more information on this or any other nursing continuing education opportunities, please contact Laura Gillim at 688-2697 or lgillim@omhs.org.

Did you know...

Did you know that during the month of December alone, OMHS saved 150 trees and 26 cubic yards of landfill space by recycling cardboard?

Last month, our organization recycled 17,638 pounds (20 bales) of cardboard material. If this material had been taken to the landfill, OMHS would have paid .02 a pound. That is \$352.76 for one month.

Special thanks to your efforts, our organization will be able to save over 1,800 trees and \$4,000 this year due to cardboard recycling efforts alone.

For more information on this or any other green efforts at OMHS, contact John Hudson at jhudson@omhs.org or 688-2641.

Indiana Wesleyan University to offer on-site advising

Representatives from Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) will be at OMHS in the New Life Education Center for on-site advising on Wednesday, January 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

IWU currently offers eight accelerated online degree programs for RNs. Degrees currently being offered in the online format include RN to BS – Nursing, MS-Nursing Administration, MS - Nursing Education, MS - Primary Care (Family), MS - Primary Care (Gerontology), MS – Management, MBA - Health Care Management or a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership.

IWU's Online degrees are structured with the busy RN in mind. Their programs are designed to accommodate a nurses schedule, books are delivered directly to your home and grants and financial aid are available.

Please contact Laura Gillim at 688-2697 to schedule an appointment. This opportunity is sponsored by the OMHS Development of the Expert Nurse Committee.

From front: OMHS nurses excel

There are two main types of advance directives. The first is a durable power of attorney for healthcare. Using the durable power option allows you to name a "patient advocate" or "healthcare proxy" to act on your behalf and carry out your wishes. Your advocate is someone you trust to make your healthcare decisions in the event that you are unable to do so. The second is a living will, which allows you to state your wishes in writing, but does not name a patient advocate.

Advance directives may include a patient's wishes related to many issues, such as the use of breathing machines, dialysis, tube feeding, tissue or organ donation and resuscitation in the event breathing or heartbeat stops.

Efforts to educate staff, patients and the community as a whole are being lead by a team of OMHS employees from throughout the organization. The Advance Directive Committee meets to review ways to improve both the processes and education related to our patients' advance directives.

Completion of advance directive goals at OMHS are measured through a random audit of 75 charts each quarter by the OMHS quality department. For more information on advance directives or to be a part of the AD team, contact Vickie Morris in Case Management at vmorris@omhs.org or at 688-2734.





Time to register for 2008 HIP screenings

If you are enrolled for HIP in 2008, registration for the spring screenings is now available through Registrar. Please note that HIP registration is accessible through the Registrar link on the Intranet home page (NOT the HIP link).

Screenings are being offered on the Parrish Campus (on 4 North-West) and at the HealthPark. Please note that make-up dates will NOT be offered.

Social Security numbers are used to register spouses who are enrolled in the program. Employees who have trouble finding their spouse in the system using their Social Security number should contact Sherry Jones at 688-4889.

If you have any problems registering on-line, please contact Sherry Jones at 688-4889. If you have any other questions regarding HIP, please contact Nancy Velotta at 688-4881 or at nvelotta@omhs.org.

Welcome the newest members to the OMHS team!



ROW ONE: (left to right) Kate Vincent, RNA - Peds; Amy Ellis, RNA - ICU; Laura Hurm, RNA - Labor & Delivery; Laura Hamilton, RNA - ICU

ROW TWO: Anna Hall, RNA - Medical 6-5; Christopher 'Chris' Fears, Application Analyst - Application Support; Brancy Maddox, Pharmacy Tech - Pharmacy; Michael Robertson, Exercise Physiologist - HealthPark Fitness

ROW THREE: Blake Hood, Staff Accountant - Accounting; Ryan Sandefur, Application Analyst - Application Support; Suzette Wimsatt, Billing Specialist - Professional Billing; Emily Morris, Unit Clerk - Orthopedics; Barbara Jo 'B.J.' West, RNA - Emergency Dept



ROW ONE: (left to right) Sherry Johnson, Nurse Assistant - Medical 6-5; Dorothy Lingafelter, LPNA - TCC; Christine Raymer, RNA - Rehab; Sherry Tichenor, Unit Clerk - TCC

ROW TWO: Apryl Goatee, Nurse Extern - Medical 6-5; Brittany Medkiff, Pharmacy Tech - Pharmacy; Candice Lanham, RNA - Nursery; Courtney Cook, Nurse Asst/Clerk - Medical 4-4

ROW THREE: Ward Begley, Sr. VP Legal Affairs - Administration; Shannon Fambrough, Mon Tech/Clerk (LPNA) - Cardiac Stepdown; Tammy Hook, Nurse Assistant - Peds; Kim Gillians, SP Tech - Sterile Processing; KrisCendia Embry, LPN - TCC

UNAVAILABLE FOR PHOTO: Rebecca Adams, LPNA - Rehab; Rose Towery, RN - Convenient Care