



**TOP 5%
IN THE NATION
FOR QUALITY**

by **HEALTHGRADES**
GUIDING AMERICA TO BETTER HEALTHCARE

extra

News for Owensboro Medical Health System Employees



“The ratings we received reflect the continual, careful and thoughtful processes that include following evidence-based care.”

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Catharine Schmitt

Chief of Medical Staff
on the HealthGrades announcement

WHAT'S INSIDE

**HOPE Fund donations
being accepted**

p.2

**Volunteers needed for
holiday food drive**

p.3

New hospital construction

p.4

HealthGrades names OMHS #1 in Kentucky for Neurosciences, treatment of stroke and Cardiac Care

OMHS ranks as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care and Critical Care

A report released in October by HealthGrades, a leading independent source of physician information and hospital quality outcomes, named OMHS number one in Kentucky for neurosciences and treatment of stroke. OMHS also received the two following designations:

- One of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care
- One of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Critical Care

OMHS is also #1 in Kentucky for cardiac care, cardiology, and coronary interventional procedures and the top ranked hospital in the state for: 1) joint replacement surgery, such as total knee replacements; 2) critical care, which includes treating high acuity patients with diagnoses such as sepsis (infection of the blood) and respiratory failure; 3) cardiac care; and 4) medical treatment of gastrointestinal issues, such as bowel obstruction.

Choosing a hospital can be a life or death decision. HealthGrades report found that patients treated at five-star rated hospitals experience a 73 percent lower risk of mortality and a 63 percent lower risk of complications.

“The ratings we received reflect the continual, careful and thoughtful processes that include following evidence-based care and other quality measures undertaken by our hospital,” said Catharine Schmitt, MD, chief of medical staff at Owensboro Medical Health System.

“Patients today have a wide array of options when it comes to choosing a healthcare provider,” said Kerry

Hicks, HealthGrades chief executive officer. “At HealthGrades, we are proud to have led the way for empowering patient choice based on objective clinical outcomes and access to actionable quality measures. We commend Owensboro Medical Health System for its superior quality and support of consumerism and transparency.”

Key findings of the *HealthGrades 2011 Healthcare Consumerism and Hospital Quality in America* report include:

- Patients, on average, were 63 percent less likely to experience in-hospital complications than patients at one-star programs, and had a 43 percent lower chance of developing an in-hospital complication than the national average.
- If all Medicare patients from 2008 through 2010 had been treated at five-star hospitals, 240,040 lives could have potentially been saved.
- In an online survey, 42 percent of HealthGrades visitors said they believe their chances of experiencing an unexpected death or complication is higher in some hospitals in their community compared to others.

Nov. 9, 2011

Talk to us...



Upcoming events at OMHS:

Now – November 11th

Children's Health Assessments

Volunteers are needed to help facilitate children's health assessments in the Owensboro and Daviess County school systems. If you're interested in volunteering at your child or grandchild's school or another facility or if you have questions about specific dates, you can contact Janie Walther at 688-4878.

November 10th

UofL Nursing Day

Employees are invited to learn more about the local programs available through the University of Louisville at OMHS. The informational sessions will run from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 10th. The UofL facility is located on the 2nd floor in the north wing of OMHS.

Nov. 14th-25th

Angel Tree Program

Want to sponsor an angel on this year's Angel Tree? Submit eligible employees for the program between Nov. 14th and 25th. Forms may be found in Pastoral Care or on the intranet. Send assistance request forms by interoffice mail or deliver them to Pastoral Care. For more information contact Mary Askin at 688-4159.

Nov. 14th-Dec. 16th

Holiday Food Drive

OMHS is partnering with the Help Office of Owensboro to provide food and other essential items for people in need this holiday season. If you are interested in serving as a department volunteer in the drive, please contact Debbie Zuerner Johnson at 691-8270 or email at debbie.johnson@omhs.org.

Do you have an OMHS related event you'd like to share in Extra? Send it to stuart.peck@omhs.org and we'll include it in the 'Upcoming Events' section!

Welcome new employees!



Sarah Moore – Radiology, Kandace Ramsey – Radiology, Nicole Blakeslee – Radiology, Christy Stewart – General Surgery, Elizabeth Cooper – Medical 4-4, Charla Schmitt – Medical 4-4, Nancy Chaney – ICU, Britney Payton – Family Care Unit, Tanna Schroder – Family Care Unit, Melanie Pike – Laboratory, Stefanie Huddleston – Emergency Department, Megan Taylor – Emergency Department, Lerin Martin – Emergency Department, William Warsinsky – Emergency Department, Joel Collishaw – Patient Transport Services, Donna Mitchell – Patient Transport Services, Todd Morrison – Patient Transport Services, Nicholas Richards – Patient Transport Services, Andrew Hutchinson – Landscaping, Katie Gaynor – HealthPark Fitness, Jessica Fulkerson – Springs Support, Stephanie Payne – Springs Support, Alexis Burden – Springs Support, David Wolfe – Springs Support, Rebecca Veach – Pulmonology, Donna Wilson – MultiCare Facilities, Jennifer Fox – Green River Heart.

OMHS recognized with Thoroughbred Awards

On Tuesday, October 11, 2011, the Kentucky Society for Healthcare Public Relations and Marketing held its annual Thoroughbred Awards. The awards, held in conjunction with the Kentucky Healthcare Coalition Conference, honors and recognizes excellent work throughout the Commonwealth in the areas of healthcare marketing and public relations.

Organizations are eligible to submit entries in 24 categories ranging from television advertising to direct mail design. OMHS was recognized for three projects at this year's awards, including Total Campaign – Minimally Invasive Surgery, Fundraising Campaign – The New OMHS Hospital and Educational Projects or Programs – Get Movin' Challenge.

Hope Fund donations being accepted

Employees recently received letters about the Hope Fund.

The Foundation For Health is encouraging employees to fill out and turn in donations to the HOPE Fund by Friday, November 11th. Employees recently received a brochure in the mail explaining the reason for the HOPE Fund and the value it has to OMHS employees.

"This is such a great cause and helps employees who really need the support," according to Cathie Medley, development manager at the Foundation.

Both employees who are currently giving to the HOPE Fund as well as those who are giving for the first time need to fill out the information they received in the mail and return it by November 11th. Pledge forms are also available through the intranet.

Bridget Burshears named medical director of NICU



Bridget Burshears, M.D.

Bridget Burshears has been named medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at OMHS. She will practice at the hospital as a neonatologist, specializing in the medical care of newborns requiring treatment due to conditions such as premature birth or low birth weight.

She is a graduate of the Southern Illinois School of Medicine and completed an internship, residency and fellowship at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. Burshears is a board certified pediatrician and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville.

Dan Clark appointed to Kentucky Association for Medical Instrumentation

Clark will serve on the board of directors for KAMI



Dan Clark

Dan Clark, an employee in OMHS' Biomed Department has been appointed to serve on the Kentucky Association for Medical Instrumentation's board of directors. Clark is a Level 3 Certified

Biomedical Equipment Technician and Certified Radiology Equipment Specialist. As a member of the KAMI Board of Directors he will have a chance to support its mission in a direct way, but he will also be able to represent OMHS as a part of the larger Kentucky healthcare industry.

KAMI is a state wide organization for Biomedical Technicians with a goal of improving patient care and furthering the advancement of medical technology by providing a forum where professionals can communicate.

OMHS holiday food drive coming soon!

Volunteers are needed to help with the upcoming drive scheduled for November 14-December 16.

Volunteers are needed to help organize this year's OMHS annual holiday food drive. The Help Office of Owensboro has been chosen as this year's recipient in order to reach as many citizens in need as possible.

"The needs are great so let's do everything possible to help those who are facing difficult financial times this holiday season," according to Debbie Zuerner Johnson, manager of Community Outreach.

Volunteers will ensure boxes from Materials Management are in their departments and communicate with Community Benefit and Materials Management when needed. In addition to food, items such as household cleaning supplies and toiletry products, are being requested.

If you are interested in serving as your department volunteer, please contact Debbie Zuerner Johnson at 691-8270 or send her an email at debbie.johnson@omhs.org.

Smoking Cessation programs available:

With OMHS going smoke-free January 1, 2012 several opportunities will be offered to help employees kick the habit. November's opportunities are as follows:

Thursday, November 17th
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
HealthPark West
Concourse Garden Area

Tuesday – November 22nd
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
OMHS Parrish Avenue Campus
Conference room D

*These do not count for HIP credit.

Healthy lifestyles

Flu shots available for employees

With flu season upon us, it is important for everyone to protect themselves. Employees can get a flu shot by visiting Employee Health on the 5th floor during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Healthy adults can pass the influenza virus to someone else one day before symptoms begin and can infect others up to five days after getting sick. So, it is possible for a healthy adult to unknowingly spread the virus to patients at high risk for serious complications from influenza.

In addition to getting a flu shot, here are some other ways you can protect yourself and others against the flu this season.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and then throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. The Center for Disease Control recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Do not visit the hospital if you are sick or have had any ill symptoms within the last three days including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, uncontrolled cough or rash.

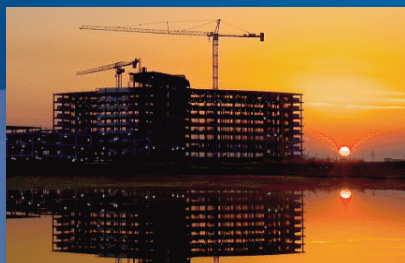


We are currently in the fourth quarter of this year's HIP program which ends December 16th.

Updates on...

The New OMHS Hospital

The New Home for Quality Care



Visit www.omhs.org and view the live webcam to follow the construction progress on the new hospital.



A hallway takes shape in the bed tower.



Still wrapped in plastic the elevators sit ready for use as construction continues. Two separate banks of elevators are designed to keep visitor flow and patient flow separate.



The main courtyard starts to take shape as work continues on the surrounding buildings.



Blue tape marks areas where equipment will sit in the operating rooms.



Recently Daviess County Judge Executive Al Mattingly stopped by the hospital and presented a proclamation in honor of Certified Surgical Technologist week. From left to right: Rebecca Schartung, CST; Destiny Daughtery, CST; Mike Jones, CST; Al Mattingly, Judge Executive and Natalie Aud, RN.



The sun reflects off the glass façade.