

# extra

news for  
Owensboro  
Medical Health  
System employees

Our Mission is to heal the sick and to improve the health of our community. April 25, 2008

## State gives OMHS nuclear medicine program a clean bill of health

### Inspectors find zero deficiencies

Nuclear medicine is a field that requires special attention to details. There are stringent safety regulations to follow. Radioactive drugs must be handled with care. And every move must be properly documented. In nuclear medicine, keeping tight tabs on every aspect of the program is just part of the job.

A recent state review confirmed that the OMHS nuclear medicine team does that job as well as anyone. In fact, a state inspector listed zero deficiencies in the program and complimented the team for being "highly organized." The review was conducted by the Kentucky Radiation Control Branch, which oversees institutions that hold radioactive materials licenses.

"We are very pleased to get an inspection like this," says Daryl Reed, the program's lead tech since 1999. "Our unit is heavily regulated, so to come away with zero deficiencies is very nice to hear." Reed believes this is the second straight deficiency-free inspection OMHS has received.

According to Reed, it is rare to be inspected and not receive some general recommendations for improvement. Reviews are not announced in advance, so facilities being inspected usually have no time to prepare.

Reed cites several reasons his team has achieved outstanding results, including:

- A computerized nuclear medicine tracking program that organizes records and issues quality-control reminders

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The OMHS nuclear medicine team poses with the Hawkeye 4, the state's first hybrid nuclear medicine/CT machine. The Kentucky Radiation Control Branch recently issued a glowing report about the OMHS nuclear medicine program, calling it "highly organized." Pictured from left to right are: Cindy Adkins, Daryl Reed, Julie Westerfield, Cathy Allen, Denise Edge, Terri Bailey, and Arny Contratto.

## Career fair draws area students

Approximately 150 high school seniors attended Health Career Exploration Day at the OMHS Conference Center last week. Nineteen different OMHS departments participated in the event, representing a wide range of healthcare careers, from fitness training to surgery. Department exhibits were designed to be interactive and to present students with an authentic snapshot of what it's like to work in healthcare.

"It was an excellent hands-on opportunity for students," said Dori Meyer, who manned the surgery exhibit. "There were a lot of very good questions."

The career fair was co-sponsored by OMHS and Green River Area Development District. Students represented high schools from Daviess, Ohio and Hancock counties.

Online compliance testing ends in less than a week; April 30 is the last day. Log on to [www.omhs.org/testing](http://www.omhs.org/testing) or click the link on the intranet home page

## Getting ready for Joint Commission Spring 2008 survey

### Question:

What is the hospital's system or process for checking all emergency equipment, drugs and supplies to ensure that all items are current, readily available and in good working order?

### Answer:

Emergency equipment on top of the code cart is checked every 24 hours. On the code cart check sheet, items 1 – 14 are checked off in the appropriate box, the lock number is recorded, and the person checking the cart signs at the bottom on each column. Departments that are not open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week have department specific policies addressing code cart checks.

### Question:

What is a nutritional screen?

### Answer:

The criteria for a nutritional screen is developed by dietitians and is completed by the nurse during the admission process. If the patient scores  $\geq 5$ , he/she is referred for a dietary consult. The dietitian will see the patient within 48 hours. If necessary, on-call dietitians are available to see patients on Sunday.

## HIP!

Health Improvement Program

### HIP Update

The following classes are available next week for Health Improvement Plan participants. Check Extra each week for updates on upcoming classes. If you have additional questions regarding HIP quarterly activities, please contact Nancy Velotta at 688-4881 or [nvelotta@omhs.org](mailto:nvelotta@omhs.org).

#### April 29

##### Nutrition 101

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
New Life Education Center

##### High Blood Pressure

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
New Life Education Center

##### Cardiovascular Exercise – Why Bother?

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
New Life Education Center



*CAPTION – It's your move! Armed with both the king and the queen of spades, Wilda Gray, mammography and x-ray tech, anticipates her opponent's move at the OMHS spades tournament held last week. The team of Sarah Carlisle and Cheryl Baisden-Wade won the tournament and took home iPod Nanos. The tournament was presented by the OMHS Activities Committee.*



*A good mannequin! Phil may not be real, but don't tell him. He breathes and blinks, has a pulse, and even reacts to medication. Phil visited OMHS last week as part of the emergency department skills lab, where ER nurses carried out a number of simulated trauma scenarios. The \$86,000 mannequin is a complimentary training service provided by Petroleum Helicopters Inc. PHI representative Eric Christensen says simulation "is the wave of the future" for medical training.*

## Dr. True to present fibromyalgia program

Dr. David True, rheumatologist, will discuss the clinical features and diagnosis of fibromyalgia Wednesday, May 21, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the HealthPark, classrooms A and B. Dr. True will talk about treatment options and management techniques. Learn how to step out of the shadow of the pain and effects of fibromyalgia. The clinic is free and family members are welcome to attend. Call 688-4908 to register.

## Register for May nursing forum

The next nursing forum is scheduled for Thursday, May 1 at the OMHS Conference Center, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The theme is "Celebrating Excellence." Register on the intranet or contact Leesa Edge for more information – 685-7712 or ledge@omhs.org.

## From front: Nuclear medicine

- A refresher training program that keeps the team's safety focus sharp
- Guidelines posted around the department
- The daily diligence of the team in upholding the department's high standards

Reed says he actually welcomes state inspections and uses their visits as a tool for improvement. "I know we're doing things right, but it is reassuring to get that outside review."

Located on the first floor of the hospital, OMHS nuclear medicine involves the use of isotopes to image and treat organs and body systems. The team consists of three techs (in addition to Reed) and three nurses who assist with certain medical procedures.

## OMHS by the numbers

As spring starts to emerge, the OMHS landscaping crew will be busy keeping our grounds looking beautiful. Here is a look at OMHS landscaping, by the numbers:

- The 7 members of the landscaping crew are responsible for maintaining about 70 acres.
- About 300 cubic yards of mulch are used for spring mulching—enough to fill 3 tractor trailers.
- There are 800 shrubs on the Parrish Campus alone.
- It takes close to 8 man hours a day to keep entrances clean.
- There are over 250 irrigation heads.
- During the last 5 years, 4 members of the landscaping crew have earned degrees from 3 different colleges using the tuition reimbursement program.

## Celebration of oncology nurses set for Tuesday

The Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center will host a celebration of National Oncology Nurses day Tuesday, April 29 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the 5-3 unit. All hospital employees are invited to join 5-3 oncology and OP oncology for cake and punch. The Oncology Nursing Society designates a special day each year to recognize those nurses who have achieved national certification in oncology and earned the credentials of OCN.

## Take the next step in your nursing career at upcoming education fair

So, you've been thinking about going back to school to earn that nursing degree—a first time nursing degree, perhaps, or an advanced certification. The upcoming nursing education fair offers you the chance to learn everything you need to know about pursuing your education goals. Universities, colleges, and OMHS human resources will be on hand with information on a number of topics, including:

- Associate and advanced nursing degrees
- OMHS nursing scholarships
- OMHS tuition reimbursement
- LPN to RN bridge
- OCTC@OMHS

The fair is scheduled for Monday, May 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the OMHS Conference Center and is sponsored by the Development of the Expert Nurse team.



### Welcome these new team members to OMHS!

*Front row, left to right: Courtney Howard, Unit Clerk – Medical 6-5; Shana Roberts, Pharmacy Tech – Pharmacy; Sarah Schindler, Pharmacy Tech - Pharmacy; Natasha Alvey, Nurse Assistant – General Surgery; Morgan Isbill, PCT – Surgery*

*Second row, left to right: Carla Shown, Executive Secretary – Administration; Clare McBrayer, RN – Nursing Support; Melissa Cessna, RN – Medical 4-4; Brenda Ward, RN – Behavioral Health; Angela Wabl, Health Promotion Specialist – HealthPark; Crystal Goetz, ED Tech – Emergency Department*

*Back row, left to right: Christy Snyder, Multiphasic Tech – Radiology; Stacy Onstott, RN – Emergency Department; Nathan Gish, RN – ICU; Mark Flener, Nurse Assistant – Medical 6-5; Billy Stearsman, House Assistant – Nursing Services; Corinne Pedigo, RN – Medical 4-4; Christi Dukes, RN – ICU*

