Nurses Give Back During Nurses Week

Cara Meckler, BSN, RN, CCRN

It is the true essence of nursing to care for others and this Nurses Week was no exception. While enjoying all of the nurse-centered programs and activities, a basket raffle was in full swing. Beautiful gift baskets were donated from every area of nursing throughout the hospital, and staff outside of the nursing department made contributions as well. Tickets were sold at various times and locations and the participants chose from 25 wonderful, fun and relaxation-inspired baskets. The money raised was donated to the OPEN M ministry and Akron General’s Support Our Staff (SOS) fund.

OPEN M is no stranger to help from nurses. It is a nonprofit neighborhood based comprehensive ministry based in South Akron since 1968. OPEN M stands for Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry. Their mission is to feed the hungry, care for the sick, nurture children, support families, and strengthen neighborhoods. Focusing on jobs, safety, health care, recreation and self-sufficiency, they give hope in the mist of despair.

OPEN M survives through support from 70 area congregations of 14 denominations and touches the lives of over 6,000 people a year. OPEN M assists those in need with both long and short-term assistance. This includes food, health clinics and nurturing children, building families and therefore strengthening the community.

The raffle was a huge success! We raised $2,500 for OPEN M and also donated $750 to the Akron General SOS Fund to help our own employees in need. What a great feeling to know that we have given help and hope to those who need it most. Nurses caring for others truly celebrates nursing. It fed our souls to give back to such a worthy ministry. Many of us know OPEN M personally, having volunteered through our churches. If you feel called to do more in this area, visit the OPEN M website for more information.

(www.openm-ministry.org)
From the
Chief Nursing Officer

A Celebration of Nursing

Force 1 - Quality of Nursing Leadership

What a wonderful week we enjoyed celebrating the profession of nursing! We started the week off welcoming our employees with a delightful variety of coffees, teas and the chance to win a fabulous basket…and the week only got better! From our clinician reception to the relaxing massages offered in the privacy of the Conference Center, it was a week to remember.

Who will ever forget that Nurses Week 2008 coincided with our Joint Commission survey? As gracious as the surveyors tried to be, it did become difficult at times for the nurses to participate in all of our activities. In response, we sent tons of food and drinks to the nursing units so that all could feel a part of our celebration!

We also had several wonderful guests during the week including Jerry Mansfield (who spoke on “A Path Toward a Preferred Future in Nursing”) and our own Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic. Mayor Plusquellic presented a proclamation from the city recognizing the contributions that nursing makes to the citizens of Akron and the surrounding communities. What a wonderful surprise his visit was for all of us!

I’m proud that we were able to provide a spotlight on many special people in nursing including our Advanced Practice Nurses, the Nurses Make a Difference Awardees, our Caring Nurse award recipients and two of our former patients who are now volunteers at Akron General! In addition, we actively included our off-shift nurses in the celebration by delivering goodie and coffee in the wee hours…we have so many “unsung” heroes in nursing that’s it’s hard to say thank you to everyone.

I do want to thank Judy Ezzie and Erica Lobaugh-Jin and our entire Nursing Council (and Nurses Week committee) for their outstanding work and commitment to Nurses Week. Our basket sale was the best ever and raised over $3,200 not only for our community but also our co-workers in need.

Thanks again to EVERYONE for being part of the celebration and for remembering why we celebrate. Akron General truly has the best nurses and we do “Make a Difference” every day.

Best Regards,

Beverly Bokovitz, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Senior Vice President, Nursing
Chief Nursing Officer
The national theme of Nurses Week 2008 was “Nurses Making a Difference Every Day.” At Akron General, we chose to show that support to a local community charity in Akron called OPEN M and to our very own Employee Support Our Staff (SOS) Fund. Nursing staff, physicians and others from various departments collected money and donated items to create baskets to raffle off during Nurses Week. It set the tone for a week of giving back to the community.

The fantastic activities of Nurses Week 2008 kickoff began on Monday, May 5 at 6:30 a.m. with a coffee kickoff in the main lobby where anyone and everyone could enjoy a hot cup of coffee and purchase tickets for the basket raffle. That afternoon we featured five of our Advanced Practice Nurses at our clinician luncheon for our outstanding clinicians. Julie Imani, MSN, RN, CNS, Pain Management; Pat Labbe, MSN, RN, CCRN, CRNP, Interventional Radiology; Kristy Jacobson, MSN, RN, CCNS, Neurosurgery; Debbie Pisciotta, MSN, RN, CNS-BC, Trauma; and Anita Meehan, MSN, RN, ONC, Geriatrics, talked about their roles, duties and how they make a difference in the lives of our patients. Later that night we had a coffee station celebration for the night shift nurses to energize those that work tirelessly throughout the night.

Tuesday began early again as trays of muffins, danishes and fresh fruit were sent to all areas where nurses work. Stress relief was available in the Conference Center Auditorium via soothing music, massages and healing touch therapy. Nancy Strick, RN, a certified healing touch practitioner and instructor, presented an informative presentation entitled “The Introduction to Healing Touch.” In the same afternoon we had additional coffee stations on the 3rd, 5th and 7th floors.

Wednesday was Nursing Grand Rounds day. Jerry Mansfield, PhD(c), MS, RN, Administrator of Nursing Quality and Translational Research for Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, gave the inspirational presentation, “A Path Toward A Preferred Future for Nursing: Maximizing Individual Potential.” Jerry spoke about ways to empower the future of nursing and discussed the personal attributes that help sustain courage in times of change. That evening, night shift nurses were delivered packages filled with popcorn, trail mix, fresh fruit, cookies, pens and more.

Thursday brought another exciting day as two of our volunteers spoke of their experiences at Akron General with special recognition to our nurses. Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic arrived and gave his testament to the wonderful care he received from the nurses during his time as a patient here. Mayor Plusquellic gave a proclamation to all the nurses of Akron for their tireless efforts, knowledge and compassion to their patients and community.

A reception Friday celebrated all of our nurses and honored those with certifications. It was a festival of food while our “Nurses Week Video” played on the big screen. That night was a pizza party for all the night shift nursing staff.

Despite our surprise visit from The Joint Commission, Nurses Week was still fantastic. Judy Ezzie and I would like to thank administration for their support, funding and participation. We’d like to thank the fabulous catering and housekeeping staff for all their hard work to make the entire week special. Medical Photography was kind enough to videotape most of the presentations. Thank you to all of those who helped out before and during Nurses Week – your sleepless nights and dedication did not go unnoticed.
Nurses Make a Difference Awards

Here are a few of the comments made by patients and families.

Mark Joliet received nominations from many patients - here are just a few of the comments from patients:

“Mark goes the extra mile for his patients.”

“He has respect and consideration for his patients, which makes your hospital stay a little brighter.”

“He took the time to talk to me and help me understand. He explained my medications and more than anything, I felt like a ‘normal’ person while talking to him. Mark truly is a great nurse, person and employee.”

A patient wrote this about Colleen Riley:

“Colleen is kind, caring, nurturing and knowledgeable...her concern was not only for my physical well being, she also helped me with the often overwhelming emotions of childbirth. She was always ahead of each situation - she anticipated my needs and made me feel like I was her most important patient. Colleen is a nurse making a difference in many lives!”

A patient with a long history of cancer wrote about Vicki Erdman:

“After having extensive radiation to my mouth and neck, it became difficult to heal...I was then sent to an angel in the Hyperbaric Oxygen Unit named Vicki Erdman. I proceeded to be with her for 50 days. I have never seen a more caring, knowledgeable nurse! Vicki was always thinking of things that might help me. She made me feel that I would get better, and guess what, I did! Vicki is deserving of all the recognition Akron General can muster up.”

A patient from 5400 wrote about Kim Liston:

“Kim was the perfect nurse. In spite of the major snowstorm, she always had a smile on her face and whenever I needed anything she was always there. She spent time with me and just listened to me when I was lonely, because the hospital is a very lonely place. I just want to say thanks to Kim for making my stay at Akron General a good experience!”

A patient’s family wrote this about Kelly Bahr:

“Kelly’s dedication to his care has had a positive impact on his improving condition - she listens to our concerns and addresses them immediately. The comfort his family feels while she is his nurse is a blessing. We as a family have only positive things to say about his care...Kelly has been the ‘stand out’ among angels. We can never repay her for her compassion and caring!!”

Each year during Nurses Week the community is asked to recognize an Akron General nurse who made a difference in their hospital stay. Over 150 recognition forms were received from former patients and families complimenting many different nurses in various areas throughout the health system. It was most difficult to choose the winners from such an outstanding group of nurses! The following five nurses were chosen to receive the “Nurses Make a Difference Award” during Nurses Week: Kelly Bahr, RN, 52A; Vicky Erdman, RN, HBO; Kim Liston, LPN, 5400; Colleen Riley, RN, 2400; and Mark Joliet, RN, 6100/6400. The staff on 5100 won the team award.

5100 won the Team Award. Patients and families nominated ten different nurses. These nurses and the other 5100 staff certainly make a fine team. One patient said: “My experience on 5100 was the best care I could ask for. I found all the nurses and other workers to be experts in their field of work; I cannot pick one nurse to be the best. Thank you from the bottom of my
Akron General Celebrates Nurses Week 2008
Meet Our New Nursing Directors & Clinical Managers

Helena Habib
Helena Habib is the new Director of Nursing/Patient Services of psychiatry units 6100/6400. Helena comes to Akron General with a wealth of psychiatric experience. Her most recent position was in Ashland, Kentucky, where she worked as a nurse manager at a Kings Daughters Hospital.

Helena began her career as a charge nurse at River Park Hospital in West Virginia. After obtaining her Masters in Health Care Administration at Marshall University, she worked as a unit manager at West Virginia’s State Psychiatric Hospital. She has also worked in the private sector as a psychiatric nurse. Helena obtained her BSN from West Virginia University and her MSN from Marshall University.

Helena’s goal for the psychiatric units is to “support quality patient care and to encourage the staff to build healthy relationships with each other and work collaboratively with members of the multidisciplinary health care team.”

Christy Rohm
Christy Rohm is the new Clinical Manager of 4200A and 4200B. Christy began her career at Akron General as a nurse technician on 4200A. In 2005, Christy obtained her BSN from The University of Akron. Prior to her role as clinical manager, Christy worked as a staff nurse on 4200A. She is currently enrolled in the MSN program at The University of Akron in the Nurse Practitioner Tract. She expects to complete her degree in 2011.

Christy states that the goals she would like to accomplish in her new role include, “supporting the staff in providing quality and compassionate patient care, supporting an environment where the staff are proud of the work they do and strive to improve each day, and to promote healthy relationships among staff on the units, which in turn will reflect in a positive way on our patient care.”

Jackie Gurnick
Jackie Gurnick is the new Director of Nursing/Patient Services of 9100 Telemetry/Neuroscience Unit due to open on July 1, 2008. Many of you might remember Jackie from when she previously worked at Akron General as a Staff Development Instructor several years ago. She left us to become a mobile healthcare provider (i.e. traveler) and has spent the last 3 years back at the bedside in various settings at out of state hospitals.

Jackie completed both her BSN and MSN at Kent State University. She has been an active member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) for many years. Jackie was honored at the AACN National Teaching Institute in Atlanta, Georgia last year with the 3M Healthcare-AACN Excellence in Clinical Practice Award.

While Jackie enjoyed her experiences as a traveler, she decided to come home to Ohio and experience a new endeavor in which she could utilize her advanced degree. Lucky for us, Jackie also chose to come home to Akron General! Jackie is looking forward to opening this new unit and is quite excited about developing a healthcare team to care for this specialty.

Lisa Bell
Lisa Bell is the new Director of Nursing/Patient Services of 4200A. Lisa has spent her nursing career at Akron General. She began as a staff nurse on 5200A and has worked in CCU, ICU and the Cath Lab. Lisa most recently held the position as Coordinator of the Cath Lab Extension.

Lisa completed her BSN from Ursuline College in 1989. She will complete her MBA from Baldwin-Wallace College this December.

Lisa says, “This is an exciting time to be a director in nursing at Akron General. It is a time of great change and challenge within the organization, but placing the patient at the core of
all decisions and actions will always be the most important goal of 42A! Lisa states she is looking forward to her role as a change-agent and also to mentoring the next generation of nurses at Akron General.

Nancy Doolittle
Nancy Doolittle is the new Clinical Manager of 5200A & 5200B. Nancy comes with a wealth of experience. She started at Akron General as a Nurse Tech. After graduating from Kent State with her BSN she worked for two years on 3100, seven years in the Emergency Department and most recently in Quality Improvement.

Nancy is currently enrolled in a combined degree program at the University of Phoenix to obtain both an MBA and an MSN in Health Care Management. She is also raising a family, which makes her a busy woman, but she adds it is fun and always exciting.

Quality patient care is her focus, and she hopes all of her past experiences will guide her in this new management role. Nancy wants to support all the positive things that the nurses on 52A and 52B are already doing while fostering relationship-based care and teamwork. Nancy is eager to support the directors and staff.

Susan Spencer
Susan Spencer is the new Director of Nursing/Patient Services of 3100. Susan has an excellent background in cardiology. She began her career as a critical care nurse at Elyria Memorial Hospital, and has worked as a staff nurse in coronary care units at several Cleveland and Canton-area hospitals. She also worked in the outpatient cardiology setting as the Director of Patient Care Services for Ohio Heart Care in Canton. Most recently she was the Director of Education Services at Affinity Medical Center in Massillon.

Susan graduated from the MB Johnson School of Nursing at Elyria Memorial Hospital. She later earned a BA in Business Management from Malone College and is presently working on her MSN at Phoenix University. Susan expects to graduate with her MSN in December.

Management of 3100 is Susan’s choice now. She believes working directly with the nursing unit is where implementing new ideas and changes can really make a difference in patient care. Her passion is customer service for the patient, colleagues and other departments. She feels customer service coupled with excellent nursing skills are what create a positive hospital experience for a patient. Susan shares, “The staff are a great team that support each other and I am very excited about working with them.”

Sue Collins
Sue began her career at Akron General as a nurse tech from 1999 to 2000. She obtained her BSN from Kent State University in 2000. After passing her boards, Sue began work as a staff nurse on 6100.

Aside from a brief period of time on 5400, psychiatry has been her focus. Sue worked as a staff nurse on both 6100 and 6400. She has a lot of experience to bring to management!

Sue became the clinical manager of 6100 and 6400 in February 2008. She took this position because she feels she can make a difference. Sue wants to share the experience she has obtained over the last eight years with the staff. Sue looks forward to supporting the nursing staff by serving as a mentor and teacher in the delivery of excellent patient care.
Congratulations to Our New Clinicians

NOT PICTURED
William Woods, RN, ED
Tabitha Deguzman, RN, ED
Barb Greve, RN, 5400
Janet Miller, RN, PACU
Valerie Albanese, RN, Radiology
Andrea Miller, RN, Radiology
Judy Yetzer, RN, Radiology
Sarah Lane, RN, ICU
Traci Lubanovich, RN, 2100
Julie Burrier, RN, 2100
Jessica Gau, RN, 2100
Barb Cucerzan, RN, 2100
Patricia Dye, RN, 2100
Rebecca Silver, RN, 3100
Maria Miller, RN, 3100
Lesa Shriver, RN, 2400
Jorena Dimare, RN, 2400
Wendy Galaska, RN, 2400

Special congratulations to Andrea Clauson, RN, CCU, for attaining Clinician II status.

Caring Nurse Award Winners

Each year prior to Nurses Week, the staff at Akron General nominates nurses who they consider outstanding. These nurses exemplify caring in nursing practice and promote the Guest Service Standards of our medical center. We thank all those who took the time to nominate a peer. Here are the outstanding RNs and LPNs who were surprised on their units with a gift basket of goodies.

Pat Labbe, RN, Radiology
Linda Wilcox, LPN, 5400
Kathy Knobloch, LPN, 5400
Cathy McBroom, RN, 4100
Claudia Loffelmann, RN, ED
Janel Vitrano, RN, MICU/SICU
Carla Petras, RN, Nursing Coordinator
Kristin Wheeler, RN, CCU
Britney Lariumore, RN, L&D
Sue Kovach, RN, SCN
Tanya Wilhelm, RN, CCU
Krystal Kepler RN, PICU
Sharon Roebuck, LPN, 4100
Jennifer Kraus, RN, PICU
Michelle Leporis, RN, PACU
Greer Wagner, RN, ED
Rosemary McLaughlin, RN, WCC
Kelly Laign, RN, 52A
Brenda Jessup, RN, 52A
Kerri Porter RN, MICU/SICU
Jennifer Hiner, RN, 52A

Team Award:
Nursing Informatics
Mary Kay Walsh, RN
Teresa Numbers, RN
Karen Lawrence, RN
The Barbara Donoho Awards

In 2002, Barbara Donoho, Chair of Nursing Advisory for Kent State University, introduced the idea of recognizing outstanding clinicians who help to educate students from the College of Nursing. She acknowledged that direct care nurses, Advanced Practice Nurses and nurses in leadership positions work hard to assist in educating our next generation of caregivers without being paid for their time and service.

It was in this spirit that the Barbara Donoho Distinguished Leadership for Learning Nursing Award was created. The recipients are Registered Nurses who serve as role models/mentors for nursing students as they develop in their professional role. The recipients demonstrate leadership that is recognized by students or clinical faculty as contributing to learning.

On April 5, 2008, five Akron General nurses were recipients of this prestigious award and were recognized at an awards banquet at Kent State University Student Center Ballroom. The following nurses were the recipients of this prestigious award: Julie Imani, MSN, RN, CNS, Pain Management; Claudia Cihlar, PhD, APRN, BC, Center for Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; Mary Beth Husseini, MSN, RN, CS, Partial Hospitalization; Cathleen Burke, BSN, RN, CBN, Bariatric Coordinator; and Diana Fleming, MSN, RN, 3100, PRN and Kent State Faculty. Congratulations!

The Barbara Donoho Awards

Relationship-Based Care

Relationship-Based Care (RBC) is a professional practice model that serves as a guide for change in Akron General’s culture. It provides principles that shape caring behaviors, supports collaboration among all members of the healthcare team and promotes continuity of care throughout the organization.

Susan Wessel, RN, MS, MBA, CNAA-BC, and Lynda Olender, MA, RN, ANP, CNAA-BC, consultants from Creative Health Care Management, visited Akron General on May 28 – 30, 2008. They completed their appreciative organizational assessment and presented their findings to our interdisciplinary leaders.

Plans are underway to continue house-wide education and implementation. The next phase includes a three-day retreat at the Health & Wellness Center - West for staff and managers from those units and departments who will be in the first wave to “go live.” The retreat is entitled “Reigniting the Spirit of Caring” and focuses on replenishing staff members’ spirits and restoring their enthusiasm for caring. The curriculum is based on the three components of RBC: care of self, care for colleagues, and care of patients and families.

The consultants will be back on-site on July 17 & 18 for the purpose of working with the Results Council, an interdisciplinary group of organizational leaders whose role is to oversee the implementation of RBC by removing barriers and improving processes. The consultants will also be meeting with the Unit Based Councils from the Wave I units/departments and their managers to provide the necessary skills and blueprint for unit implementation. The agenda for the unit councils include: team leadership, communication, consensus decision-making and establishing a communication network with unit colleagues.

For the patient care areas, RBC is a theoretical model of nursing care with a focus on primary nursing. Each unit will determine, via the Unit Based Councils, exactly what primary nursing means to their unit. Our consultants will assist with this process.

Ultimately, we believe that RBC will help us to focus our care on the patient. We will work collaboratively with all the departments that interact with the patient to achieve this goal. We are excited about implementing our new model and are looking forward to your participation in this important transformation.
Coffee and Celebration of Nursing

Akron General once again celebrated Nurses Week with the hustle and bustle of many activities. Nurses Week not only recognizes nurses, it is also a time for nurses to promote nursing to our patients, co-workers and community. In this way, some may be influenced to go into nursing, while others who are nurses may reflect on why they went into nursing in the first place.

One of the popular activities that was trialed in 2007 and repeated this year is coffee stations. During different periods of time, the stations were placed at various locations in an effort to make them available to all. One of the most popular locations was on the 5th floor where the raffle baskets were displayed. Nurses not only had an opportunity to visit with one another and have a cup of coffee, but also had an opportunity to view the 25 magnificent baskets on display.

Nurses, administrators, directors and personnel from the Nursing Informatics Department were a few of the people hosting the stations. Last year, after participating in serving at one of the coffee stations, Titus Sheers, MD, Program Director, Internal Medicine & IM - Peds Residencies, stated he had fun and would do it again without hesitation. True to his word, he participated in this activity again this year donating time at the coffee station located on 7100. A sincere appreciation goes out to Dr. Sheers and all who participated and made contributions to a wonderful Nurses Week at Akron General.

Safe Patient Handling

On March 10 – 14, 2008, Jessica Ridenbaugh, RN, 5100, and Dana Gillette, RN, MICU/SICU, joined Nancy Panthofer RN, MSN, and Connie Stopper, RN, MSN, M.Ed, Associate Professor, Kent State University, at the 8th annual Safe Patient Handling & Movement Conference in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The conference comprises an interdisciplinary group of healthcare members from around the world. Jessica and Dana’s attendance was made possible by support from Jon Trainor and the Akron General Development Foundation.

Jessica and Dana agreed to become the “peer leaders” on their respective pilot units for safe patient handling. As peer leaders, they are responsible for ongoing staff education on safe patient handling, integrating knowledge of safe transfer methods into practice to foster a culture of safety, providing constructive feedback to peers on performance and assuring peer competency in the use of patient handling equipment.
Nurses in the Spotlight

Paula Thrasher, RN, Staff Development, received the Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Chapter’s Excellence in the Utilization of Nursing Research Award on April 12, 2008.

Cindy Cramer, RN, MICU/SICU, completed her MSN in Education from Walden University.

Shelly Huff, RN, CWCN, Nursing Director, 4100, completed her MBA from Kent State University in March 2008.

Cherie Mountain, RN, Nursing Director, 8100, completed her MSN from Walden University in April 2008.

Paula Lett, RN, Clinical Manager, New Life Center, completed her MSN in Nursing Leadership and Management from Walden University.

Sharon Burwell, RN, 5400, completed her MSN in Nursing Education from Kent State University in May 2008. She also presented a poster presentation at Robinson Memorial Hospital on Oral Care of the Oncology Patient on May 2, 2008. She presented for nursing ground rounds in April at Robinson Memorial Hospital.

Sally Pyle, LPN, 52A, completed her ADN from Stark Technical College in May 2008.

Marva Dortch, NA, 52A, completed her BSN from The University of Akron in May 2008.

Christie Summers, LPN, 52A, will complete her ADN in July 2008.

Bonnie Markovich, RN, Care Management, completed her BSN from Walsh University in May 2008.

Brenda Beazlie, RN, 6100, and Pat Gless, RN, 6400, completed the RNC in Psychiatry.

From 6100/6400, Mark Joliet, RN, and Brenda Beazlie, RN, have taken the lead on the IDDT (Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment) program. Linda Jacobs, RN, has taken the lead on the Engagement Model. (Engagement is a model through which staff build relationships with the patients and each other to foster a therapeutic milieu.)

Lisa Underation, RN, Trauma Care Manager, completed certification as a Brain Injury Specialist through the American Academy for the Certification of Brain Injury Specialists (AACBIS).

Marty LaConte, RN, Fetal Evaluation, completed her RNC in Inpatient Obstetrics.

Amy O’Toole, RN, 4100, completed ACLS certification.

Claire Wilson, RN, Nursing Director, 5400; Cathy McBroom, RN, 4100; Anita Meehan, RN, Med/Surg CNS; Cherie Mountain, RN, Nursing Director, 8100; and Eunice Riley, RN, 4100, presented a Clinical Symposium on Falls with Amy Rybarczyk from pharmacy and Chris Freas from PT.


Anita Meehan also received the Sigma Theta Tau International Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice during Nurses Week.

Nicki Blasiole, RN, Wound Center, completed certification exams in Wound, Ostomy and Continence.
The various nursing councils have been busy this quarter. Nursing Council approved a new Interdisciplinary Pre-Procedure Check List. The nursing kardex was also changed. A treatment documentation section was added to the backside of the form. DNR, precautions and confidential status were also added.

APN Prescriptive authority that was very restrictive was rescinded. Akron General will now follow the State of Ohio Prescriptive Authority Statements.

The Ohio Patient Safety Institute reduced the number of patient armband colors so that we would have a more universal policy in the state: Clear/White - patient ID, red - latex allergy, yellow - fall risk and green - blood. DNR is under review.

Nursing Practice Council reported Cathflo was chosen by pharmacy to replace TPA to declot VADs. Fragmin has replaced Lovenox in all but a few select situations. There are Fragmin kits available from pharmacy and a Fragmin video on TIGR for patient teaching.

The Department of Nursing Goals for 2008 were reviewed. These goals focus on pain, prompt answering of call lights, falls and bedside caregivers.

Education Council reported the New Welcome Video is now on Channel 42. Maintenance is working its way around the hospital to force tune all the TVs to go to this channel when turned on. The goal is for the nurse to turn on the TV and video, and encourage the patient to watch this video upon admission. It contains lots of good safety and informational data.

Individual MD Homegoing Instruction sheets can be placed under Patient Education on the intranet. These can be printed out for patients on discharge. Presently there are Tram Flap Instructions from Akron Plastic Surgeons and Bladder Retraining Instructions from Dr. Devine’s office.

Lastly, we will be placing a greater focus on Relationship-Based Care (RBC) this year. A Healthcare Management Firm will help us with RBC training for staff and managers. Our goal is to integrate RBC to the bedside.