

April 2008

**Monthly newsletter for physicians
at Thomasville Medical Center**

Purple Bracelets for Patients with DNR Orders

Beginning April 7th, all patients with DNR orders will be given a purple bracelet for visual identification to provide additional communication to all care providers of the DNR status. These bracelets will be placed on the same arm as the patient identification bracelet and will be verified by two nursing staff members when placed on the patient.

Reminder: Extended System Downtime in April

This is a reminder that on April 19 at 1pm, all facilities within Novant will experience an extended clinical system downtime. The reason for the downtime is to upgrade Net Access to Invision 27. We are preparing for Net Access to be unavailable for up to 24 hours but are anticipating a much shorter downtime. An information sheet for physicians has been developed for the downtime. To get copies of this sheet, please visit Medical Staff Services or go to www.thomasvillemdlinks.org.

Emergency Departments to initiate "Auto-Faxing"

To ensure ongoing communication and continuity of patient care, the entire Emergency Department physician report will automatically fax to the Patient's Primary Care Physician, if one is identified during the patient registration process and to any other physician the patient is referred to for follow-up care. The auto-fax process will occur for every patient seen in the Emergency Departments regardless of the severity of the visit. The goal is to begin rolling out the auto fax process at TMC in May.

Medicaid New Requirements for Tamper-Resistant Prescriptions Took Effect April 1

As of April 1, there is a new requirement for prescriptions provided to Medicaid patients. All hand-written Medicaid prescriptions will be required to be written on tamper-resistant prescription paper/pads. While this requirement is federally mandated, there is not a single national standard. Individual states are responsible for providing guidance on which tamper-resistant features they will require. For additional information on your specific state requirements, it is suggested that you check the National Association of State Medicaid Directors Web site at www.NASMD.org/issues/TRPP.asp.

Network will e-mail patient safety alerts to physicians

The iHealth Alliance on March 25 launched a network to e-mail drug and product safety alerts to U.S. physicians, who can review the alerts online. Manufacturers will provide recall, warning and other patient safety alerts to the Health Care Notification Network following Food and Drug Administration guidance. The network also may be used to communicate with physicians in public health emergencies. It is operated by Medem, funded by the drug and product manufacturers who use it, and excludes advertising. U.S. licensed physicians can register for the free service at www.hcnn.net. (Source: AHA News Now, March 25, 2008)

Nurses Receive Education on Communication Technique

The nursing staff has received education on the SBARQ communication technique. This is a developed communication tool which was first used in the aviation field and has been demonstrated to be effective in healthcare as well. When you receive calls from the nursing staff regarding your patients, you should get information on: (S) Situation, (B) Background, (A) Assessment, (R) Recommendations, and (Q) Asked if you have any other questions.

Events

Open House for the Emergency Department will be Sunday, May 4 from 2 - 4. At 1:30 the Foundation will hold a ceremony to honor all donors for the commemorative bricks at the ED entrance. Refreshments will be served.