Nursing Excellence!

I was coming in to workout before work one day. I greeted a man I see frequently in the gym. He acted as if he did not know or recognize me. I thought he was being witty, however his speech was incoherent. I looked closer – he was uncoordinated, dropped a bag of magazines he was carrying, and knocked over a sign. I looked at the magazines to verify this was a man I knew. My intuition (and nursing skills) told me to get involved and I wondered if he was having a stroke. I grabbed a wheelchair and while he protested about being placed in a wheelchair, he acquiesced and allowed me to take him to the ER. I left him in the ER’s capable hands and went to work. During my break I went to check on him – he was having a stroke and was admitted. He continues to make improvements as he completes his recovery.

I know God had set an appointment between Joseph and me that morning. He allowed our paths to cross for a good reason. I am grateful to have been at Penrose that morning.

Gina Wamble BSN, RN-BC
Penrose Perioperative Services

Radiology Care Unit (RCU) Magnet Moment

One afternoon in early April, just before the RCU was closing for the day, we received a call from the office of a cardiologist we had not worked with before. Dr. Gustafson’s office was calling to ask that we add on a patient that day for a CCTA. A CCTA is a CT scan of the heart and surrounding vessels and we had rarely seen it ordered. The test requires that the patient’s heart rate is less than 60 beats per minute, which often times requires the administration of beta blockers. It also requires a thorough patient history and an antecubital large bore IV placed prior to the test. We agreed to stay and get the test done that afternoon. The order was received, the patient registered, the chart was put together, the patient arrived, 2 nurses quickly prepared him, the test was done, read by a radiologist and results were sent to Dr. Gustafson that afternoon. The RCU called it a day.

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Dr. Gustafson, his office, and his patients, who come from all over Colorado and Northern New Mexico. We now do 1 or 2 CCTA’s a day on a regular basis, both scheduled and on the fly. Together with the CT department, we assist patients to have a state of the art, noninvasive diagnostic test in a very timely manner, as an alternative to cardiac catheterization.

Our willingness to say “yes” and do whatever is necessary to complete a radiologic test really made a difference in this case to one physician and many patients all over the region.

A BRIEF JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF NURSING

It was just a normal day on the 5th floor for Tracy Lenthicum, CNA, Kristen Funk, RN, Linda Garcia, RN and Sara Landon, RN – but for me it was truly amazing! As an evaluation goal for my professional development, I choose to work monthly on various floors in our facilities to refresh my career, experience, and insight into the patient care we deliver. I was nervous about rejoining the work force on patient units – it has been more than 10 years since I had laid hands on patients. As soon as I presented to the 5th floor the manager and staff embraced my working with them!

After polite introductions Tracy propelled me to the work at hand, explaining every facet as we diligently zoomed up and down the hall. Tracy is a professional, bless her heart; she had a full assignment, but still took time to teach, explain, demonstrate, smile, and above all take care of her patients. She knew all her patients as individuals, never appeared too busy to help anyone, and always gave that little extra compassionate caring feeling, not only to her patients, but to all she came in contact with, nurses, respiratory, environmental services, – everyone. It was an honor and pleasure to watch the nursing team work – everyone pitching in to address the patients’ needs.

I saw our patients receiving exemplary care accompanied by hand washing, isolation precautions, patient identification, privacy, documentation, dignity, and compassion. We listen, treat, comfort, clean, feed and offer compassion. Watching patients begin to smile, express hope and say thank you was so heart warming! Thanks 5th floor nursing associates!  

Jill Clark, Administrative Assistant

Got a story to share? Debranussdorfer@centura.org or 776-2886. This is our Journey to the Peak!