

June 4, 2009

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

What a great week! It's been filled with "Round the Clocks," a lunch meeting on 6-South, Department of Pediatrics meeting, and evening rounds. As always, we shared reports of progress, received great suggestions from the folks "on the ground," and I learned plenty.

Here are some of the highlights from the many recommendations and ideas conveyed at the sessions:

- Add electrical outlets in some patient rooms, since we're all using many more electrical devices.
- Have the signage in the first floor of the stairwells reflect which upper floors can be accessed, so someone climbing the steps will know before they start upward. Visitors who prefer to use the stairs aren't aware that for security reasons, some doors open only outward. Now they'll know.
- Work with Express Scripts, our mail order pharmacy, to decrease call-backs and increase responsiveness. We are switching all chronic medications to mail order for convenience and cost savings reasons. One concern: Some colleagues said they had to switch to "less effective medications."
- One suggestion already acted upon is in the North Naples ER, which now has new doors with windows, so people standing nearby won't be injured by someone inadvertently opening the door without looking. This was a timely "quick fix," which is exactly what was needed.
- Dr. Todd Vedder solicited input from colleagues as he and Drs. Lopez, Perez and Estevez prepare to collaborate with Lee Memorial's pediatric leaders to plan for the future. It was also noted that only two pediatric patients were transferred from the North Naples ER last month—one for a neurosurgical condition and one for general surgery (a rare occurrence since Dr. Titus is available for all but five days per month). At our next meeting, we plan to share pediatric anesthesia and radiology competencies with our pediatricians to develop better two-way dialogue to serve our young patients.
- RN educator Debbie Schlieff discussed the STABLE Program, a neonatal education regimen focused on the post-resuscitation/pre-transport stabilization care of sick infants. (STABLE stands for the six assessment and care modules in the program: Sugar, Temperature, Airway, Blood pressure, Lab work, and Emotional support.) Debbie is the only certified STABLE instructor in Naples. We now have nurses coming from Tampa and beyond to receive training in these skills to help newborns and new moms.

One important project in the works has to do with getting rid of waste and going green. Every time we start an IV, pass a patient from EMS to the ER to the floor, we employ a ton of materials. For environmental and productivity purposes, we need to recycle, avoid overuse, and be more efficient. The folks intimately involved in using the supplies understand the best ways to improve. So we'll ask a few volunteers to work with Director of Materials Manager, M. J. Felix and me to implement improvements over the summer. Now is the time to act.

Lastly, don't forget the rain makeup "Fun Splash" is scheduled this Saturday at 5:30 PM at North Naples Park. Please RSVP so we can have all the lifeguards we need, and enough food for everybody. (Both important!)

Respectfully,



Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO

P.S. Feel free to share *Straight Talk* and ask anyone to email me at allen.weiss@nchmd.org to be added.