Patient Safety and Employee Safety Go Hand-In-Hand

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**Patient Safety and Employee Safety are Collaborative Efforts with a Common Goal: The Improvement of Healthcare Quality and Safety**

You would be surprised at how many departments and individuals throughout our institution are currently involved in activities that affect patient and employee safety. It could be you. From the carpenter hanging safety containers for needles, to the research safety tech monitoring for hazardous levels in the research areas, to the housekeeper putting out the “Wet Floors” signs to prevent slips, trips, and falls—all are working to keep patients, employees and visitors safe.

**Consider This:**

A nurse wants to tend to a patient’s special need for safe patient handling. The nurse attempts to use a lifting device, only to find out that the battery is not properly charged. In order to safely lift this patient, looking out for his/her back, neck and shoulders, and the patient’s safety, he/she needs to collaborate with our Clinical Engineering Department to get a properly charged battery to operate the lift.

This is an example of how employees working together not only protect our patients, but each other.

**There’s Safety in Numbers: Collaborators in Employee and Patient Safety**

Safe working conditions for employees and best practice directed toward improving quality of care and patient safety will improve health and safety outcomes for everyone. Here are some of the collaborators who focus on employee safety:

**C4I Culture**—Our organizational culture is being reviewed by many—workers, union members, upper management, etc. The goal of this collaboration is to foster a culture of safety. The results of the surveys are in, and six topics have been identified. You will soon hear about opportunities to join one of the focus groups to address the issues.

**Clinical Engineering**—Ensures that all medical equipment in JDH is safe and reliable and that the hospital is in compliance with current codes, regulations, and standards pertaining to electrical safety, maintenance, and testing of medical equipment. They ensure staff confidence in the reliability of the function of medical equipment and that users are knowledgeable of its operation.

(Continued…)


L-R: Patti Wawyniecki, Doug Rinaldi, Cande Pettigrew, Rhea Sanford & Sandra Barnosky

Collaboration at its Best

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The Collaborative Center for Clinical Care Improvement (“C4I”) is dedicated to making John Dempsey Hospital the safest hospital in the State of Connecticut. James O. Menzoian, MD and Rhea Sanford, RN, PhD, CS—Co-Directors
We’d like your feedback and comments! Call us at Ext. 7650
Employee and Patient Safety Quiz

Employee safety and patient safety are everyone’s responsibility.

True or False?

Many departments within UCHC collaborate toward a common goal of employee and patient safety.

True or False?

Reporting near misses can improve patient safety outcomes in the future and help make us the safest hospital in Connecticut.

True or False?

Answers to all of the above questions are TRUE.

Candace Pettigrew, RN, BSN
Patient Safety Coordinator, C4I, Ext. 3999

Save the Date!

“C4I One Year Later”
Thursday, December 1, 2005
C4I started our formal work in December of 2004. Please join us for an update on what we’ve accomplished and a review of future plans.
Place: Keller Auditorium
Times: 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM.
Please mark your calendar and join us!