

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Hospital-Acquired Infections on the Decline

Efforts to reduce hospital-acquired infections — an important goal in our Annual Implementation Plan — are paying off, as the rates of several serious conditions are declining.

“There’s greater attention from all levels of the organization, along with a heightened awareness of infections. That’s making a tremendous difference,” says Gwen Rogers, Director of Infection Prevention. “For example, we’re much more

selective about the use of invasive devices, such as central line catheters, and are removing them as soon as appropriate.”

The most recent data:

- Central Line Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI) have fallen to less than 1 per 1,000 patient days. Our goal is 1.
- Our NICU has gone 7 months without a blood stream infection.

- Ten additional units — Bean 2, CICU, Mother-Baby, P6, P3CD, R4, R6, R7, and R9 — have also gone several months without a blood stream infection.
- Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) have dropped to 1.2 per 1,000 patient days in June, down from 5.8 in January.

“Clearly, we’re making great strides in patient safety,” says Gwen, who also points to improved hand hygiene

and a greater focus on other best practices, such as cleaning mouths of patients on ventilators with chlorhexidine. In addition, “teams on multi-disciplinary rounds are following the use of devices very closely.”

“Our nurses have taken on additional responsibilities in the care and maintenance of central lines, and results have been terrific,” says Debra McPherson, Staff Development Specialist. *(Continued on back)*

Former First Lady Barbara Bush Visits Patients at BBCH



Former First Lady Barbara Bush visited The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital on August 22.

Mrs. Bush read a book to the children, and brought a little dog, Tessy, for the kids to play with.

Mrs. Bush was accompanied by her daughter-in-law, Margaret Bush, a member of the Maine Medical Center Board of Trustees, who also read to the children.

Pictured: The former first lady shares a bracelet with BBCH patient Avery, while other patients and parents look on.

Tobacco-Free Policy Reminders

As we continue to educate patients and visitors about the Tobacco-Free Policy at Maine Medical Center, the tobacco-free committee leaders would like to acknowledge all employees, patients, and visitors who have supported and adhered to the new guidelines. We know it was a challenging transition for some, but the feedback has been

overwhelmingly positive.

Here are some reminders about the policy:

- Smoking and tobacco use are not allowed on our grounds, including sidewalks, parking garages, and vehicles (including employee vehicles parked on MMC property).

Please be respectful of neighbors.

- Nicotine gum is available for free at the outpatient Pharmacy for visitors and for employees. However, employees are expected to get their own nicotine replacement product if they expect to use it regularly.

- Employees can make an appointment with the Nurse Practitioner from the Tobacco Treatment Program to get a prescription for NRT to get through the day: 661-3000.

Thank you for your continued effort as we embrace a healthier hospital and healthier Maine.

"Infections" from front

"Their commitment again demonstrates the concept of safe patient and family

centered care."

A lot of hard work is paying off, says Doug Salvador, MD, Vice President of Quality and Safety, and Associate

Chief Medical Officer. Efforts include staff and physician training on care and maintenance of central lines, the introduction of alcohol caps

on central line ports, better documentation practices, and the introduction of maintenance bundles.

Hurry in! **WOW! Rewards 2013**

Take two steps by Aug. 30:

- 1 Get your annual fasting health screening **AND**
- 2 Complete your annual HealthQuotient Health Assessment

You can earn extra money, get a choice of health plans in 2014 and, if you test tobacco-free, pay less for coverage.

MaineHealth
Works on Wellness

To find a screening location and access the Health Assessment:
www.mainehealth.org/wowrewards

The Power
of Your Choices

Both steps of WOW! Rewards must be done by Friday, August 30, or you will default to the Basic health plan for 2014.

COMING UP AT MMC

Farm Bus
Tuesdays - Bramhall
Wednesdays -
Scarborough
3:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Maine Children's Cancer
Program Night at the
Sea Dogs
Tuesday, August 20
Hadlock Field

Labor Day
Monday, September 2

Miracle Jeans Day
Wednesday,
September 18
Dress casual for
work to support BBCH.

Nutrition Symposium
Wednesday,
September 25
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Dana Center
Presented by Nutrition
Services

For details on all upcoming events, check out the Calendar on the MMC Intranet.


Maine Medical Center
MaineHealth

WHAT'S HAPPENING IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Comments, questions, and story ideas:
Chelsea Miller, Communications Specialist
(207)662-4096 millec7@mmc.org