



THE lamp LIGHTER

Methodist Hospitals Nurse Newsletter • Dec. 2023

Promoting Our Nurses' Workplace Safety

By understanding and adopting certain safety habits, Methodist Hospitals nurses can navigate their work environments with increased confidence, especially during the upcoming holiday season.

Methodist Hospitals' Director of Public Safety and Security Joseph Gonzales recently shared valuable insights into common safety concerns faced by nurses. While many safety recommendations are applicable to all employees, he highlighted the potential challenges nurses face due to their close interactions with patients, visitors, and sometimes, aggressive individuals. In those cases, immediate communication with security enables our security team to monitor and address potential threats effectively.

"We want to encourage our nurses to notify security if they feel uneasy about a particular incident during their shift – whether it's an aggressive patient, an unsettling visitor, or any other security concern," Gonzales said. "They can alert police officers and security personnel assigned to the Emergency Departments at both campuses, or they can call the security team assigned to that campus."

Securing the Journey to and from Work

A key to ensuring a safe journey to and from your workplace is to make yourself the most difficult target possible. To accomplish that, Gonzales offered these tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings. When walking to and from your vehicle, try to refrain from immersing yourself in your phone. Put your phone and earbuds away for the short walk from your vehicle to the building.
- Park in a well-lit area of the parking lot, near one of Methodist's many closed-circuit security cameras.
- If you have a remote start on your vehicle, don't start it too early. Thieves are known to troll parking lots looking for idling cars so they can lie in wait for unsuspecting drivers.

- There is strength in numbers. If you can, leave the building in a group. If you wish, please call security for an escort or to alert us to monitor your trip via closed-circuit TV.
- Store any valuables in your car out of sight.

The Methodist security department has mobile units patrolling our parking lots every day. Those patrols are intensified between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., and between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. – when most hospital shifts begin and end.

They are supported by a comprehensive network of closed-circuit security cameras that are monitored by security personnel 24/7.

Gonzales also discussed the Operation Safe Zone partnership with the City of Gary, which gives the Gary Police Department direct access to Methodist Hospitals' surveillance cameras.

"Operation Safe Zone enhances real-time communication during emergencies," Gonzales said, "providing law enforcement with accurate information for more effective response."

ALERTING SECURITY



Northlake Campus

Dial **4520** from a Methodist phone or call **219-886-4520**

Southlake Campus

Dial **5528** from a Methodist phone or call **219-738-5528**

Please be prepared to provide as much information as possible and to answer some quick questions. That information will enable security to tailor their response appropriately, ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone involved.

Testing Flushable Bath Wipes



We will soon begin testing new disposable, flushable bath wipes in selected units at both hospital campuses.

When flushed down patient room toilets, the current bath wipes have caused blockages in the hospitals' plumbing systems that resulted in leaks into patient care areas, ceiling damage and considerable expense.

The trial will begin sometime in December on 4 East, 5 South and Labor & Delivery at Northlake, as well as 5W2, 3W2 and Labor & Delivery at Southlake.

If the testing is successful, the use of the disposable, flushable bath wipes will be expanded to our entire system.

THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

- LEADERSHIP
- SAFETY
- QUALITY
- WELL-BEING
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- SHARED DECISION-MAKING

Shared Governance Update

Our Shared Governance effort is continuing to build momentum as our committee continues to meet on a regular basis.

At the most recent meetings, that committee discussed patient engagement and reviewed the most recent quality scorecards. It is also in the process of developing a new Nursing IT council and a new Nurse Manager council.

Although the Shared Governance effort is moving ahead, it's not too late for more Methodist nurses to have a voice in shared decision making. Scan this QR code or visit **MethodistHospitals.org.SG** to submit your name online.



Methodist Awards \$28,500 to This Year's Clinical Ladder Recipients



We would like to congratulate the Methodist Hospitals nurses who qualified to earn Clinical Ladder rewards for 2023. This year we had 13 nurses earn a combined \$28,500 – new records for the program!

The Clinical Ladder program rewards and recognizes our clinical nurses' professional practice. It is an annual portfolio submission of completed work demonstrating exemplary professional practice, leadership, quality improvement and evidence-based practice.

These Methodist nurses each earned \$2,500 for reaching Level 3:

- **Val Alger, RN** | Nursing Professional Development
- **Billie Childress, RN** | Southlake | Neuroscience Institute
- **John Coates, RN** | Northlake | Surgery
- **Codi Eckles, RN** | Southlake | Surgery
- **Michelle Ham, RN** | Southlake | Neuroscience Institute
- **Sonia Harris, RN** | Northlake | Surgery
- **Kerri Osika, RN** | Southlake | Surgery
- **Michelle Saliaris, RN** | Northlake | PACU
- **Bethany Wignall, RN** | Southlake | Oncology Institute

These Methodist nurses achieved Level 2 status and earned \$1,500:

- **Annette Murry, RN** | Southlake | Surgery Center
- **Laurel Pritchard, RN** | Southlake | Surgery Center/GI Lab
- **Angela Poynter, RN** | Southlake | Endoscopy
- **Latoya Williams, RN** | Northlake | Surgery

If you would like to be among next year's Clinical Ladder recipients, now is the time to submit your application. Please email **Mary Jo Valentine** at mvalentine@methodisthospitals.org.

Happy Healthy Holidays

to all of our
dedicated nurses



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