

# THE lamp LIGHTER

Methodist Hospitals Nurse Newsletter • October 2024

## Collaboration and Professional Development ADVANCE PATIENT CARE

At Methodist Hospitals, registered nurses play a pivotal role in delivering exceptional patient care. Your professional responsibilities are guided by a commitment to collaboration, continuous development, and a shared dedication to the health and well-being of the community.

This commitment is firmly rooted in the principles of the Nurse Practice Act and the hospital's mission to provide the best possible care to all patients.

A cornerstone of nursing at Methodist Hospitals is collaboration. Our nurses work hand-in-hand with physicians and staff to ensure that every patient receives comprehensive, coordinated care. This team approach extends beyond daily clinical practice to include mentoring and developing others, such as new hires and nursing students.

"By sharing their knowledge and expertise, our experienced nurses can help to build a strong, capable team to meet the diverse needs of our patients," said Chief Nursing Officer, Marla Hoyer-Lareau.

### Professional Development and Ownership

Professional development is not just encouraged at Methodist Hospitals—it's a core expectation. It encompasses activities like continuing education, advanced work practices, involvement in professional associations, teaching, and volunteer work. These activities are essential for maintaining competence and renewing credentials.

"Our nurses must take ownership of their professional growth, continually seeking opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge to better serve their patients," said Hoyer-Lareau.

Our Professional Practice Model is closely aligned with our mission, vision, and values. It serves as a blueprint for how we deliver the highest quality care to those we serve. It is integral to our nursing practice, ensuring that every action and decision is made with the best interests of patients in mind.

Meanwhile, our commitment to shared governance means that nurses are empowered to take an active role in decision-making processes. This decentralized structure allows you to collaborate and share ownership and accountability in clinical practice standards, quality improvement, patient care experiences, staff development, and research, as well as shape the future of patient care.

Methodist Hospitals is proud to support our nurses as patient advocates. Working closely with the appropriate medical staff and following the proper chain of command, our nurses ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

### A Commitment to Standards and Excellence

Patient Care Services at Methodist Hospitals adheres to standards of care and practices defined by local, state, and federal statutes.

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## Message from the CNO

I'd like to share some of my impressions regarding the new HCAHPS survey questions, which emphasize the importance of communication and collaboration among our healthcare teams, ensuring that our patients feel informed and supported throughout their journey with us.



Marla Hoyer-Lareau,  
RN, BSN, MHA  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief Nursing and  
Operations Officer

Breaking down care silos is essential for seamless, patient-centered care. By fostering strong partnerships across departments and disciplines, we can better anticipate and meet the needs of our patients and their families.

I encourage you to continue enhancing our teamwork and communication, as these efforts directly impact our patients' experiences and outcomes. Let's embrace this opportunity to grow and strengthen our commitment to excellence in care delivery. Together, we can set a new standard for healthcare in our community and provide the level of care our patients deserve. Thank you for all you do each and every day.

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This adherence not only ensures compliance but also reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence in all aspects of patient care.

The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) plays a critical role in this, overseeing the practice of nursing throughout the health system and ensuring that every aspect of care meets the highest standards.

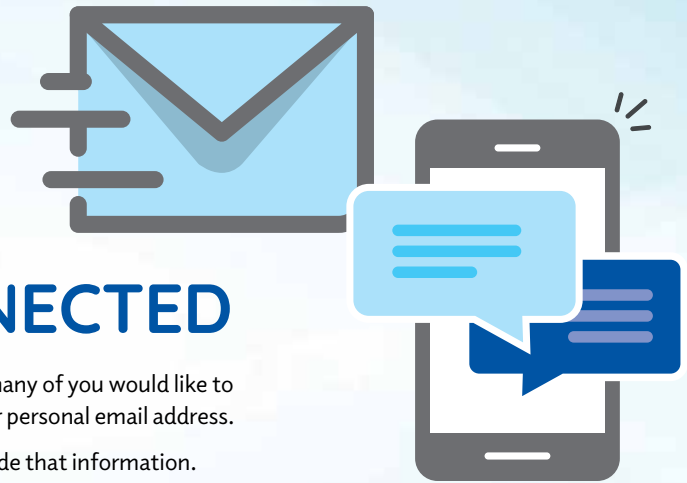
### A Philosophy of Compassionate Care

Our philosophy is simple yet profound: to provide patients with optimal nursing care in a safe environment, helping them to return to their families and communities with restored health and productivity. When recovery is not possible, our goal shifts to maintaining comfort and dignity until the end of life.

This compassionate approach to care is at the heart of everything we do and reflects the true spirit of nursing at Methodist Hospitals.

By embracing collaboration, professional development, and a commitment to excellence, Methodist Hospitals nurses continue to set the standard for quality patient care," Hoyer-Lareau said. "You're more than caregivers. You're leaders, educators, and advocates dedicated to the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

# EMAIL OR TEXT? SIGN UP TODAY



## KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

Our recent survey of Methodist Hospitals nurses revealed that many of you would like to receive Nursing Department Communications via text or to your personal email address.

So, we created a secure, online way for interested nurses to provide that information.



[Just scan this QR Code to fill out our simple sign-up form online.](#)

Rest assured that your privacy and security are our top priorities, and your information will only be used for official departmental communications and will not be shared with anyone.





## Meet Our Shared Governance Committee

The Methodist Hospitals Shared Governance Committee is a collaborative platform where nurses actively participate in decision-making to enhance nursing practice, improve patient care, and drive positive change within our hospital community:

- Ruben Martinez, RN - chair
- Lydia Espinoza, RN
- Virginia Ait Said, RN
- Kayla Eldridge, RN
- Mary Gaydos, RN
- Michelle Lobo, RN
- Polly Pearce, RN
- Karly Kuykendall, RN
- Yvonne Morris, RN

You can be a voice for change by joining the Shared Governance effort at Methodist Hospitals, where your insights help shape nursing practice and improve patient care. Contact Mary Jo Valentine for more information at [mvalentine@methodisthospitals.org](mailto:mvalentine@methodisthospitals.org).

## IT Update

Please be informed of the following scheduled IT downtimes for October:

### Monday, October 14:

Epic will undergo maintenance from 1:30 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. During this period, Epic will be upgraded to the latest version. Please check your emails for detailed information about the new features and updates included in this upgrade. While Epic will be in "Read Only" mode, you will still be able to review due medications. Remember, no edits can be made during this time.

### Wednesday, October 16:

The Sunquest lab system will be down from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please ensure your units are prepared with downtime lab requisitions. If you do not have the necessary requisitions, they are available in the storeroom.

Reminder notices will be sent prior to each downtime.

## Methodist Hospitals Launches Pathway to Excellence Journey

Methodist Hospitals is proud to announce the official kickoff of its Pathway to Excellence journey.

This program, developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, provides a framework for fostering a healthy and supportive workplace for nurses.



The six Pathway standards include Shared Decision-Making, Leadership, Safety, Quality, Well-being, and Professional Development. These pillars will guide our efforts to enhance the nursing environment and elevate care quality.

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to get involved as we work toward achieving excellence. Look for further details on each standard in upcoming issues of *The Lamplighter*.

## Applause! Applause!

Congratulations to Glynis Adams, RN, DNP, for earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Chamberlain University earlier this year. Glynis is the manager of the 4E and 5S units at Northlake. Well done, Glynis!



### Northlake Campus

600 Grant St., Gary, IN 46402 | 219-886-4000

### Midlake Campus

2269 W. 25th Ave., Gary, IN 46407 | 219-944-4160

### Southlake Campus

8701 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410 | 219-738-5500

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