



THE Lamp LIGHTER

Methodist Hospitals Nurse Newsletter • Dec. 2025



Provision of Care Spotlight: Code Blue

As Methodist Hospitals anticipates the upcoming Joint Commission survey, we are publishing a Lamplighter series focusing on various aspects of the provision of care. In this issue, we're spotlighting Code Blue.

When seconds matter most, Methodist Hospitals' Code Blue system ensures that expert help is on the way...fast.

A Code Blue is activated whenever a patient experiences cardiac or respiratory arrest, signaling an immediate need for advanced resuscitative efforts. The response requires seamless teamwork, swift assessment, and precise coordination among all members of the care team.

How to Activate a Code Blue

A Code Blue can be initiated by **dialing 22** or by **pushing the Code Blue button** located in patient rooms and clinical areas. This instantly alerts the hospital's Code Team and mobilizes essential responders to the scene.

Who Responds

The Code Team includes an ICU registered nurse, anesthesia provider, respiratory therapist, house manager, chaplain, security officer, and the unit RN familiar with the patient.

Each team member has clearly defined responsibilities – from airway management and chest compressions to medication administration and documentation - ensuring that every second is used effectively to support the patient's survival.

Code Help vs. Code Blue

In addition to Code Blue, Methodist Hospitals uses **Code Help** as a proactive system to engage rapid assistance when a patient's condition begins to deteriorate.

Code Help can be activated by staff, patients, or family members who are concerned about a patient's worsening symptoms. Responders include a registered nurse from ICU at the Northlake Campus, a registered nurse from IMCU at the Southlake Campus, the house manager, and a respiratory therapist, each designated at the beginning of their shift.

Commitment to Readiness

Every Code Blue represents the ultimate test of a hospital's preparedness and teamwork. Ongoing training, simulation drills, and prompt documentation in EPIC are vital to ensuring Methodist's staff remain confident and ready to respond.

By staying alert, following protocol and communicating clearly during every Code event, Methodist nurses exemplify professionalism and dedication to lifesaving care. These are core values that reflect the hospital's ongoing commitment to excellence and readiness for the upcoming Joint Commission survey.





CNO MESSAGE:

Honoring Your Hard Work, Heart, and Holiday Spirit



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

As we enter this season of light and gratitude, I want to thank you for the extraordinary compassion, skill, and resilience you bring to our patients and one another every day.

From Northlake to Southlake, your teamwork shines in quiet moments at the bedside and in fast-moving, high-acuity situations. As always, your commitment to safety, quality, and the wellbeing of our patients has been felt throughout our hospitals and in the communities we serve.

I would like to especially congratulate the 44 Methodist Hospitals nurses who qualified to earn Clinical Ladder rewards this year. That's nearly three times as many successful Professional Nurse Development Program participants we've ever had in a single year.

The holidays can be joyful and demanding. Please care for yourselves as you care for others—take your breaks, lean on your teams, and reach out if you need support. Every safe discharge, every comfort offered, every life changed carries your fingerprints.

Thank you for living our mission with heart. May this season bring you peace, health and joy. I'm honored to serve alongside you.



IT UPDATE:

Finding Hospital Policies in Epic

Nurses have multiple convenient ways to access Methodist Hospitals' policies—both through the intranet and directly within Epic.

The quickest option is PolicyStat™, which is linked prominently on the main Methodist intranet homepage. From there, you can search for any policy by keyword, department, or topic.

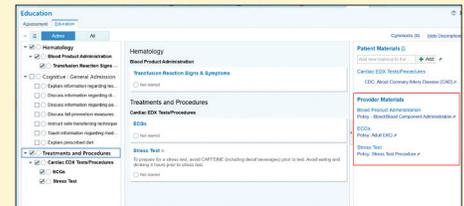
Epic also provides direct access to policies that relate to the specific work you're doing. For example, you'll find policy links embedded within the Education section, inside Care Plans, and within order sets under Manage Orders. These built-in shortcuts allow you to open the relevant policy without leaving your workflow.

Whether you prefer navigating through the intranet or using Epic's point-of-care links, Methodist ensures that critical policies are always easy to locate when you need them.

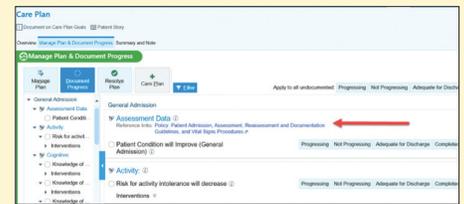
The PolicyStat™ link on the main Methodist intranet homepage



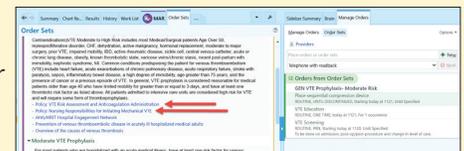
An Epic Education section policy link example.



An Epic Care Plan policy link example.



An example of order set policy links.





Methodist Awards \$94,000 to our 2025 Clinical Ladder Recipients

We are proud to recognize the Methodist Hospitals nurses who achieved Clinical Ladder rewards for 2024. This year, 44 nurses earned a combined total of \$94,000 in bonuses—setting new records for both participation and award amount.

Remarkably, this year’s total is nearly triple last year’s record-setting awards, reflecting our nurses’ exceptional dedication to professional growth and high-quality patient care.

The Clinical Ladder program is designed to reward and celebrate exemplary clinical nursing practice.

Through an annual portfolio submission, participating nurses demonstrate their achievements in professional practice, leadership, quality improvement, and evidence-based care. Their commitment to advancing their skills and strengthening our practice environment directly benefits our patients, our teams, and our organization.

\$3,500 Bonus Recipient

Deena Pidrak – Southlake Outpatient Surgery

\$2,500 Bonus Recipients

Julia Albrecht – Northlake ED
Diane Beukema – Southlake Outpatient Surgery
Angelica Bravo – Southlake Outpatient Surgery
Megan Burns – Southlake 2w3
Milica Castro – Northlake ICU
John Coates – Northlake OR
Katie Dostal – Southlake Outpatient Surgery

\$2,500 Bonus Recipients (cont.)

Tiffanie Evans – Southlake ICU
Annessa Flowers – Specialty Health
Sherri Gatline – Northlake ED
Amanda Granzow – Specialty Health
Sophia Hunt – Northlake ICU
Amy Kersey – Southlake ICU
Allena Lovelace – Northlake Labor & Delivery
Kerri Osika – Southlake OR
Madelyn Paczkowski – Northlake ICU
Angela Poynter – Specialty Health
Laurel Pritchard – Specialty Health
Marissa Riffett – Northlake ICU
Michelle Saliaris – Northlake OR
Alyssa Sharp – Specialty Health
Jamie Smith – Northlake ED
Mary Valente – Northlake ICU
Sonia Washington – Northlake OR
Christina West – ED/Resource
Bethany Wignall – Southlake Oncology Institute

\$1,500 Bonus Recipients

Albin Abby – Southlake ED
Melisa Carter-Chenoweth – Northlake OR
Lucy Chavez-Reyes – Northlake ICU
Kashley Dangli – Northlake ICU
Colleen Flanders – Specialty Health
Danielle Gulbrandsen – Specialty Health
Quinella Jackson – Northlake OR
LeAndrea Jones – Northlake ICU
Pam Krill – Northlake OR
Summer Lawhead – Specialty Health
Lizet Munoz – Northlake ED
Annette Murry – Southlake Outpatient Surgery
Danielle Pangilinan – Northlake ED
Tiffany Sanchez – Northlake OR
Lori Walter – Specialty Health
Kristie Wellestat – Specialty Health
Latoya Williams – Northlake OR

If you would like to be among our 2026 Clinical Ladder award recipients, please email Mary Jo Valentine at mvalentine@methodisthospitals.org.

Meet Our NICU Princesses

Our NICU nursing team made sure that these little princesses didn't miss the fun on their first Halloween.



Be a Voice for Nursing

Help shape practice, elevate quality, and strengthen your profession at Methodist Hospitals through Shared Governance. Scan the QR code to get involved and join a council today!

