UNITED FOR PATIENT SAFETY

Each year the National Patient Safety Foundation sets aside time to highlight and recognize the importance of patient safety. This year, Mercy will celebrate National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 18-24 with the theme “United for Patient Safety.” When we are United for Patient Safety, we renew our shared commitment to practice behaviors and techniques proven to prevent and reduce errors and harm to our patients, therefore creating a safer workplace.

Mercy started the SafetyFirst journey – which involves keeping our patients, families, visitors, and employees safe – in 2012. Safety is important to our Mission – our commitment to quality care that is safe, personalized, comprehensive and collaborative. In April 2015 Mercy started a Safety Coach Program. Safety coaches are team members specially trained to observe employee work behaviors and provide feedback about practice and compliance with our behavior expectations. These individuals are a valuable asset in the journey to high reliability.

As we recognize National Patient Safety Week and celebrate our success during the last few years, it is important to keep our goal in mind – zero events of preventable harm by 2020. Together, United for Patient Safety, we can accomplish this goal! All members of the Mercy Family are encouraged to take a few moments to think about how they keep patients safe on a daily basis and take the Safety Pledge:

“I pledge to implement and follow practices that increase the safety of our patients and team. I am personally committed to practice our SafetyFirst error prevention techniques and incorporate them into my daily work habits.”

Do you have questions about safety? Talk to a safety coach or contact a member of the SafetyFirst Core Team.

MERCY – CENTERVILLE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Clint Christianson, President of Mercy Medical Center – Centerville, has announced his plans to retire from the hospital on August 15, 2018, after 21 years in the Mercy system.

Under Christianson’s leadership, Mercy – Centerville experienced significant growth and became one of Iowa’s most successful rural hospitals. The hospital acquired the former Centerville Medical Clinic and consolidated it with the hospital’s physician clinic under one roof, also obtaining rural health clinic status. By dramatically strengthening finances, the hospital is positioned for a significant multi-phase building and renovation project — the first phase, a new medical clinic for fifteen practitioners. Work will begin this spring and is slated for completion at the end of the year.

“It’s been an honor and privilege for me to carry on the Sisters of Mercy mission in the community,” Christianson said. “This hospital has an incredible heritage of service —118 years — and it is personally meaningful to be part of it and work alongside our dedicated employees.”

A search for Christianson’s successor will begin immediately.

“It’s been an honor and privilege for me to carry on the Sisters of Mercy mission in the community.”
DEMING LEADS NATIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORT OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

As a radiation oncologist and medical director of the Mercy Cancer Center, Dr. Richard Deming sees how cancer changes lives on a daily basis. In 2018, Dr. Deming also has an opportunity to focus his attention on legislative efforts and advocacy initiatives as the board chair of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN).

Dr. Deming has been a member of the Board of Directors for ACS CAN since 2011. He said he sees this leadership role as an opportunity to further improve the lives of cancer patients and their families.

“I’m hopeful I can use my role as board chair to advocate for a state and country with less cancer,” said Dr. Deming. “Prevention of cancer, improved access to health care, funding for research, smoke-free workplaces – these are all issues addressed in the halls of Congress, state capitol and city councils across the nation that affect the way people will experience cancer in the future. I’m proud to lead the board for an organization making a positive difference for my patients and our country.”

REGISTER TODAY! 2018 BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM

Mercy Katzmann Breast Center and Mercy Cancer Center will host the 2018 Breast Cancer Symposium on Tuesday, April 17, from 7 a.m. -1:45 p.m. in the East Tower Auditorium. This educational program, titled Breast Cancer: Treatment and Improved Wellness, is for health care professionals and individuals interested in the care and treatment following a breast cancer diagnosis. Survivors are encouraged to attend.

Nurses will be awarded 3.75 contact hours from Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines, Iowa Board of Nursing Provider #17. The registration fee is $35 for nursing continuing education or $25 for the general public. Find out more or register online at mercydesmoines.org/bcs.

COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mercy Gastroenterology Clinic is spreading the word about colon cancer awareness by offering the opportunity to get an up-close-and-personal look at the inside of a colon. An inflatable colon will be on display from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 19-23 in the atrium of Mercy West, located at 1601 NW 114th St. in Clive. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk through the giant “super colon” and will learn more about their risk for developing colon cancer. Physicians and staff from the clinic will be on-hand at various times to answer questions about colon cancer screenings and treatment options.

WHAT’S UP?

NATIONAL HPV VACCINE EXPERT TO HEADLINE APRIL 4-5 CONFERENCE

Mercy is collaborating with several local organizations and health systems for “Making Effective HPV Vaccine Recommendations” April 4-5 in Des Moines.

At an April 4 evening event, Noel Brewer, Ph.D., a prominent researcher in HPV vaccination and cancer prevention, and Chair of the ACS HPV Vaccination Roundtable, will provide an interactive training for health care providers on the latest HPV vaccine research and guidelines. Iowans who have been through treatment for HPV-associated cancers will also share their stories.

On April 5, Dr. Brewer will present at grand rounds where the conversation will continue with patient case scenarios. Providers can attend on-site at Des Moines University or online. Both activities will be held at Des Moines University.

For more information or to register, please visit https://cme.dmu.edu/HPV2018, email cme@dmu.edu, or call 515-271-1596. This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, AOA Category 2-A Credit, and nursing contact hours through Des Moines University.

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If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

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