Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines is now using a new transport version of a cardiac balloon pump, which can be carried aboard either of the two Mercy One helicopters. This pump – which can help save the lives of patients suffering from cardiac failure – is now available thanks to a donation from the Iowa Heart Foundation (IHF).

The Iowa Heart Foundation provided matching funds needed to purchase the new high-tech piece of equipment – called a CardioSave intra-aortic balloon pump – for Mercy One. The new device, which is much smaller and lighter than previous models, has already been used multiple times, including a transfer from Fort Dodge during which it helped save a life. A generous donation from a former Iowan with Webster County ties made this lifesaving purchase possible.

The light and compact CardioSave Rescue balloon pump fits securely inside the Mercy One helicopters and can easily be transferred to and from the bedside along with the patient. This transportability eliminates potential gaps in care that could occur when transitioning to or from an aircraft. Previously Mercy One was using a balloon pump that was not well suited for helicopter use and was twice the size and more than twice the weight of the new model. The increased size and weight of the previous model made it difficult for the flight crews to lift and maneuver compared to the CardioSave.

“We are proud to be able to provide this lifesaving care and equipment to regional hospitals and their patients,” said Dennis Cochran, Mercy One program manager. “The donation from this generous person and organization help us better provide critical care to rural Iowans when they need it.”
Mercy Medical Center recently became the first hospital in the nation to offer 6mm syringes to diabetes patients for insulin injections. The new syringe is 53 percent shorter than the previous syringe. These shorter needles greatly increase the accuracy of the insulin being delivered to the subcutaneous layer, instead of the muscle. It’s also less intimidating for patients and is a less painful injection. Diabetes Clinical Specialist Brenda Dolan, RN, MSN, BC-ADM, CDE, learned about the new clinical recommendation for syringe length while reading the latest research and quickly implemented the new product at Mercy. The manufacturer of the syringe confirmed Mercy is the first hospital in the nation to implement the new syringe after it was launched. Thanks, Brenda, for looking for ways to better serve our patients! Way to Live Up!

NEW PROVIDERS JOIN MERCY FAMILY

PHYSICIAN JOINS MERCY CLINICS INTERNAL MEDICINE URBANDALE

The physicians and staff of Mercy Clinics Internal Medicine Urbandale are excited to welcome Erin Fish, D.O., to the clinic. Dr. Fish received her medical degree from Des Moines University in 2000, and completed her residency in internal medicine from Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc, Mich., in 2003. Prior to joining the clinic, Dr. Fish worked as a hospitalist at Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines and as a volunteer physician at Free Clinics of Iowa.

Mercy Clinics Internal Medicine Urbandale is located at 4005 NW Urbandale Dr. in Urbandale. Dr. Fish is now accepting patients. To schedule an appointment, call (515) 643-9500.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT JOINS MERCY INDIANOLA CLINIC

The physicians and staff of Mercy Indianola Family Medicine and Urgent Care are excited to welcome Amber Frantum, PA-C, to the clinic. Amber earned a master of science in physician assistant studies from Des Moines University in 2005. Prior to joining Mercy, Amber worked as a physician assistant at Colfax Medical Associates in Colfax, Iowa.

Mercy Indianola Family Medicine and Urgent Care is located at 307 E. Scenic Valley Ave. in Indianola. Amber is seeing patients on a walk-in basis in the urgent care clinic.

SHOES THAT FIT DRIVE AT MERCY PROVIDES RECORD NUMBER OF ITEMS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

For 11 years, the Mercy Family has helped provide new, warm winter clothes to area school children in need through the annual Shoes That Fit drive. Each year, the number of children in need of suitable winter clothing continues to increase, and the responsiveness of the Mercy Family grows right along with it.

This year, nearly 850 needs slips were fulfilled, along with cash donations of $975 to go toward the cause.

Mercy staff should be proud of their overwhelming response to this project and for providing yet another example of what it means to Live Up!

TURKEYS TO FLY AT ANNUAL TURKEY TOSS NEXT WEEK

As an expression of appreciation, Mercy’s leadership team provides turkeys to staff members prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Each eligible Mercy staff member should have, or will soon receive, a personalized coupon to redeem in exchange for your turkey.

Please see your supervisor, or the most recent edition of “Mercy News Briefs,” for more details or if you have questions.

MERCY FIRST IN NATION TO OFFER NEW SYRINGE FOR DIABETES PATIENTS

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WHAT’S UP?

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