Maximizing Mercy

In Iowa and across the country, the cost to provide quality health care is growing faster than revenue received for such care. As this trend continues, being good stewards of our financial resources will be an ever more important part of the way we care for our patients.

Maximizing Mercy, an initiative that began in late 2017, is Mercy’s effort to rise to this challenge and identify new opportunities to be more efficient with its resources. While this effort has already realized meaningful savings, there is more work to be done to achieve the Key Result Area metric of Sustainable Growth and Efficiency.

Clinical teams around the hospital are currently reviewing and refining new Maximizing Mercy opportunities. These teams are working hand-in-hand with other staff to ensure each change leads not just to efficiency, but quality and patient satisfaction.

Additional information about Maximizing Mercy and the roles you can play will be shared in upcoming Daily Huddles. If you have an idea for Maximizing Mercy, please send an e-mail to Jim Funk, vice president – supply chain, at JFunk@mercydesmoines.org with “My Maximizing Mercy” in the subject line. All ideas are welcome, from cost reduction suggestions, to thoughts on how to be more efficient, improve processes, and anything else that will help us Maximize Mercy!

Mercy Mammography adds new 3D machines

Offering patients state-of-the-art technology is important to Mercy’s Medical Imaging department. Recently, Mercy Mammography installed new 3D mammography machines at Mercy North, Mercy East and a second 3D unit at Mercy’s central campus. The new machines are capable of traditional digital mammograms as well as 3D images. With this addition, all five Mercy Mammography locations now offer 3D mammograms.

Pat Howe is a mammography technologist at Mercy North in Ankeny, and said the new machines provide greater visibility for the radiologist to see breast detail in a way never before possible. “This is huge benefit to the Ankeny community. We have had a lot of interest from patients who want a 3D mammogram since the machine arrived.”

Mercy Mammography has five convenient locations in the Des Moines area – Mercy North in Ankeny, Mercy East in Pleasant Hill, Mercy Indianola Specialty Clinic, Mercy West in Clive and Mercy’s central campus. There are eight total 3D mammography machines between the five locations.

If you haven’t had your annual screening mammogram and you’re age 40 or older, call (515) 247-4444 to schedule your mammogram today!
Mercy's LVAD Program celebrates four years

Congestive heart failure (CHF) patients, caregivers and Iowa Heart Center providers gathered on Sept. 20 to celebrate improved lives and new beginnings thanks to the left ventricular assist device known as LVAD.

The LVAD device helps the heart pump blood for CHF patients. Since 2014, 40 patients have been helped by the device — allowing them to live an additional 17,379 days with an improved quality of life.

LVADs is a “destination therapy” for CHF patients. Some patients will depend on the rechargeable battery-powered devices for the rest of their lives. For others, the LVAD is a bridge until a heart transplant. The device can also support a patient’s heart during an illness until it’s no longer needed.

Interventional radiology is the behind-the-scenes success of Mercy’s stroke program

Earlier this year, Mercy Medical Center–Des Moines started performing 24/7 clinical coverage of mechanical thrombectomy – an advanced interventional procedure available to acute ischemic stroke patients. This procedure is the latest treatment option added to Mercy’s stroke program, which is supported by the expertise of highly experienced and dedicated interventional radiology (IR) technologists, computed tomography (CT) technologists and nursing staff.

During the course of the interventional case, IR technologists assist the physician and, with the help of the nursing staff, provide exemplary care for their patients. CT technologists provide vital information that is essential for the decisions required for treatment. The nursing staff provides assistance to the technologists and physicians throughout the case. They are also responsible for the continued neurological monitoring of the patient, as well as ensuring patients are comfortable throughout the procedure. Stroke intervention requires a highly specialized skill level in neurological intervention by both the IR and CT technologists and RNs, and they serve as a fundamental part of the continued success of the Mercy Stroke Program.

Welcome new providers!

- Andrew Bishop, D.O., Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Johnston
- Bryan Foster, PA, Iowa Heart Center
- Jeff Henson, M.D., Occupational Medicine
- Holly Melahoures, D.O., Physician Lead, Internal Medicine
- Jacqueline Myers, PA-C, Neurology
- Karen Powell, D.O., Psych Residency
- Kara Reis, ARNP, Mercy Clinics Quick Care
- Zinka Sarchet, PA-C, Gastroenterology
- Logan Walker, D.O., Internal Medicine Urbandale
- Krishna Yarlagadda, M.D., Geriatrics

Congratulations to:

Maria Johnson, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and Troy, on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Anne. Lucy was born on Aug. 28 and was welcomed home by Ryan, 8, and Nathan, 5.

Laura Jones, Mercy West Lakes Surgery, and Jason, on the birth of their daughter, Alyza Mae. Alyza was born on Aug. 28 and was welcomed home by Jayla, 2.

Candice Gries, Cath Lab Recovery, and Nick, on the birth of their son, Carter Kempton. Carter was born on Sept. 8 and was welcomed home by Colt, 2.

Donia Bass, NICU, and David Bass, Pharmacy, on the birth of their daughter, Greta Elizabeth. Greta was born on Sept. 20 and was welcomed home by Jeri, 19, and Miranda, 16.

Cari Taylor, 9 South, and Jacob, on the birth of their daughter, Emery Sage. Emery was born on Sept. 21 and was welcomed home by Greyson, 8, and Orion, 6.