MercyOne remains committed to the highest safety standards for our patients, colleagues and physician partners. With this in mind, we are under a temporary no visitor policy due to increased COVID-19 counts in our region. The updated restrictions are based on our community’s number of cases per 100,000 population. We commit to returning to allowing visitors as soon as case counts remain below 100 cases per 100,000 people in our service region, for 7 days or more. Currently, our case count for Woodbury County is 408.2 active cases per 100K.

We also closely monitor Plymouth County, Dakota and Thurston Counties in Nebraska and Union County in South Dakota.

Our policy is in effect for all departments, including surgery, procedures and clinic visits, however, we do allow for compassionate care exceptions for visitation during clinical situations where not having a visitor at the bedside would delay or impede care. Other exceptions will be made for extenuating circumstances, including children admitted to the hospital and patients receiving end-of-life care.

In compliance with current CDC and CMS regulations, please continue to screen for temperature and COVID-19 symptoms immediately upon entering the hospital by reporting to your first department. Thermometers along with a screening log and stickers will be available at each location. Stickers are to be worn on your badge or visible on your clothing. Additionally, masking is still required at all times throughout the hospital.

On September 30, MercyOne Siouxland Heart and Vascular Center physicians and colleagues celebrated seven awards, distinctions and certifications earned in 2020. Awards include honors for heart failure care from U.S. World and News Report and the American Heart Association as well as a triple certification for non-invasive cardiology by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission for Echocardiography and certification of the cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. Pictured are teams from the Heart and Vascular Center clinic, short stay, cath lab, non-invasive and cardiac and pulmonary rehab.
MercyOne Siouxland surpasses 2,500 robotic cases

MercyOne Siouxland Medical Center is making exciting advancements in minimally invasive surgery, surpassing 2,500 robotic surgery cases last month. The medical center offers two surgical robots for patients seeking excellent outcomes with less downtime after surgery.

In addition to 2,500+ cases as an organization, Dr. Craig Block is nearing the 600 career case mark using a robot. Dr. Andrew Bourne has performed more than 500 robotic surgeries, followed by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Larry Volz who performed his 300th robotic case.

“MercyOne’s dedication to advancing surgical care through robotics has allowed us to be the regional leader in both urologic and general surgery,” says Dr. Volz. “In addition, robotic colon surgery has helped us achieve our 3rd U.S. News and World Report recognition for colon cancer surgery. We will continue to drive improved surgical outcomes with this technology and our outstanding team members.”

> Dr. Mary Schneider, pictured, performed her 200th robotic surgery on October 1.

Welcome, Dr. Ruelaz

Robert Ruelaz, MD, FHRS joins MercyOne Siouxland Heart and Vascular Center to provide cardiac electrophysiology.

Dr. Ruelaz comes to MercyOne from the California Cardiac Institute in Glendale and performs device implantations including Pacemaker, ICD, Sub-Cutaneous ICD, CRT (Bi-V) device, and Loop Recorder. He also performs SVT, VT, and atrial fibrillation ablations.

Contact Dr. Ruelaz by calling 712-274-7020.

Physician reminder

As a reminder we will be transitioning transcription for progress notes, consultation and history and physical documentation to Dragon Medical One (DMO) effective October 5. We plan to transition operative notes as of November 2. Please feel free to contact Kerri Stallbaum (stallbak@mercyhealth.com) or the help desk (712-279-2201) with any DMO access issues.

Look for a special email next week from President Beth Hughes:

Changes are coming for the testing of your symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 patients. Watch for communication next week.

Did you know?

If you have a question or patient concerns at any time of the day or night, call the operator at 712-279-2010 and ask them to contact the administrator on call.