3 Honorees for 100 Greatest Iowa Nurses

Announced on March 1st, Miranda Gebhart, Nurse Practitioner MercyOne Primghar, Barb Fitzgerald Emergency Department Clinical Nurse Educator and Tyler Big Bow, 6SE Medical and Nephrology were recognized as outstanding nurses. The purpose of the 100 Greatest Iowa nurses is to shine a light on outstanding nurse whose courage, competence, and commitment to patients and the nursing profession stand out above all others. Each year, the 100 Great Iowa Nurses program asks for patients, coworkers, friends, and family members to nominate an outstanding nurse for recognition. After undergoing a two-part review process, 100 Great Iowa Nurses are honored each year at a ceremony created for the state of Iowa by nurse and community leaders.

Barb Fitzgerald’s nomination included her work training and mentoring emergency room nurses, impact as an ACLS and PALS instructor and outreach to rural emergency services. Barb volunteers with street medicine, providing wellness checks for patrons of the Soup Kitchen weekly.

Tyler BigBow was nominated posthumously for his excellent patient care and teamwork. Staff helped by recalling the impact he had on the nurses he worked alongside. His nominations for the Daisy award painted a clear picture of his dedication to making each patient feel special. His award will be shared with his family as well as his team on medical-nephrology.

Miranda Gebhart has been with MercyOne a little over a year. She does an outstanding job with patients having a great bedside manner, takes her time and educates patients and families to improve their health.

Annually MercyOne nominates several nurses for this award and we are excited we have 3 nurses representing the care and compassion demonstrated in our system during 2020.

Every year more nurses are earning certification to serve their specific patient population. We are honoring over 130 nurses this month! To maintain certification nurses earn between 75-100 continuing education credits during their certification period to stay on the cutting edge of their field and renew periodically. Chief Nursing Officer, Tracy Larson said "celebrating our certified nurses as a group is one of my favorite annual activities. Certification signifies skill and knowledge of great patient care."
New Products

Many new products have hit the supply room shelves since October. To highlight what is new each month there will be a red tag, about the size of a staff badge, on the rack directly below the new item. The red tag will only stay on the rack for 1 month. New additions for February and March include:

GERI SLEEVES AND GLOVES

Alternatives to restraints, to cover or disguise the IV site for lines, to reduce pulling patient behaviors. The soft covering may help reduce altered thinking and protect lines necessary for treatments. Other options like gauze, flexi-net and coban will remain stocked on units. Eliminating restraint use on many units and reducing restraints in ICU and the emergency department is part of patient centered care. One to one monitoring and continuous video monitoring can also protect lines.

NG STAT LOCK

Hourglass shaped with a reinforced center strip, this joins our stat locks products for line securement. Skin prep is included like other stat locks similar to for urinary catheters and central lines.

NEW RECLINERS

New recliners have started to arrive on the medical-surgical units in bariatric and standard sizes. The new chairs have a one step lock that locks all four wheels at once. The black pull lever on the inside of the arm to tilt the backrest.

Blood Administration

With the rise in blood product administration MercyOne is working towards eliminating paperwork errors in nursing documentation. The most common error is that the unit number (starts with a W) is not on all 3 forms. The 2nd most common omission is the vital signs. Vital signs have to be manually entered into the form, because neither space labs nor vital link machines data can flow into that area. Our biggest areas for opportunity are on COVID units, ICU, surgical services and emergency departments.

During Nursing Council a collaborative team from nursing, laboratory and quality reviewed the process and recommended 2 changes.

1. The blood bank team in the laboratory will continue to send fix sheets daily to the units so errors can be addressed in real time. The fix sheet will continue to detail the missing information for the nurse to update. From March 7th the job aid will also be included to make fixing omissions easier.

2. Each unit has 7 days to return the documentation back to the lab. Charge nurses, unit managers and educators are great resources to assist nurses in completing missing documentation.