

United Memorial Infant Security Tested

United Memorial staged an unannounced Code Amber Drill to test the functionality of its new infant security system on Thursday, September 17, 2009. A nursing student and environmental services employee volunteered to attempt to override the security system and remove a lifelike doll from the facility.

An alert employee from the maternity unit stopped the mock abduction before they were able to leave the building. The drill proceeded in order to test other procedures United Memorial has in place to address the possibility of an infant or child abduction.

In June 2009, United Memorial installed the HALO Infant Security System which was purchased through donations made to the Hospital Foundation.

United Memorial Receives Approval from State for PT Project

United Memorial is pleased to announce that they have received official confirmation from the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Project Management that the Certificate of Need (CON) for Physical Therapy Services at Med Tech Park has been approved. The approval is dated August 14, 2009 and was received by mail on Monday.

As a not-for-profit community hospital regulated by the State of New York, United Memorial is required to seek approval for projects involving expansion of services or renovations to the physical plant. The CON process was adopted in NYS in 1974 as a way of preventing the hospitals and healthcare providers from “overbuilding” and driving up healthcare costs to pay for expansion projects. After an analytical assessment, CONs are granted based on community need rather than in the economic self interest of an individual facility. The process also serves to enhance quality of care. By monitoring facilities and equipment, hospitals can acknowledge what services are in demand and how effectively patients are cared for. The current CON approval will allow United Memorial to move ahead with plans to relocate Physical Therapy services from two separate sites in Batavia to a united, more efficient space at Med Tech Park at Genesee Community College (GCC).

“It will allow us to provide better service to those in need of physical therapy by consolidating our program under one roof in a much more accessible building,” stated Mark Schoell, Hospital CEO. Since the merger of the two hospitals in 2000, United Memorial has operated two PT programs—one on the North Street Campus at Summit Physical Therapy and another at Cary Hall on the Bank Street Campus. Neither of the sites was appropriately sized to provide the increasing level of service demanded by patient volumes and care plans. Patient access at the Bank Street site was limited and not fully handicapped accessible. The North Street site was located in a congested area and suffered from inadequate parking. In July 2009, Summit Rehabilitation assumed management responsibilities for PT and OT services at United Memorial.

The new site will allow for full handicap accessibility and improved parking. The site at GCC is just two miles beyond the current locations and will be serviced by the same public transportation line that currently stops at the Batavia sites. There is no increase in fare.

The new facility will offer improved aqua therapy services by having pools with resistive jets, regulated temperatures, treadmills and multiple sized pools for different patient requirements. A full sized “home-like” environment will be available to assist those with occupational therapy.

For number of years, United Memorial has enjoyed a collaborative partnership with GCC’s Nursing Program. Many students perform their clinical rotations at the hospital and find employment at United Memorial following graduation. This affiliation has contributed to United Memorial’s success in recruiting and retaining registered nurses; preventing a nursing shortage at UMMC. The proximity of the new Physical Therapy site to GCC will enhance the learning opportunities for GCC’s Physical Therapy students and continue to foster a positive relationship between the college and hospital.

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) confirmed at United Memorial

An employee of United Memorial has tested positive for H1N1, the novel influenza A virus. To date, the affected employee is recovering at home and has not needed hospitalization.

UMMC has been communicating and working with the NYS Department of Health and the Genesee County Health Department. As an employer and healthcare facility, we have correctly followed all of the recommendations set forth by the Department of Health, including identifying all who may have come in contact with the individual employee at the Hospital. Following the Hospital's investigation of possible exposures, the physicians of exposed patients were contacted immediately and we shared the guidelines for prophylaxis with them for follow-up with their patients. Exposed employees were also screened and offered anti-viral medications as a prophylactic measure.

Employees at the Hospital were informed of the positive H1N1 case in a memo on Tuesday afternoon and reminded to stay at home if they exhibited any flu-like symptoms. The UMMC Employee Health Nurse and the Infection Prevention Manager are closing monitoring sick call-ins by UMMC staff. There are currently no staff shortages and this incidence does not affect patient care.

The community should feel confident in the safety of United Memorial. We follow aggressive infection prevention precautions to limit the spread of any communicable illness. There is little difference in how we address outbreaks of seasonal influenza as compared to how we are advised to address Novel Influenza A (H1N1). During regular flu season, October – March, the hospital routinely issues public statements reminding residents of common flu prevention practices as a way to keep people informed and to encourage healthy habits. It is important that residents remain informed, not alarmed, about the current influenza cases within our community.

Everyone should remember to use appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to prevent the spread of influenza. Symptoms may include fever, muscle aches, sore throat, cough or nasal congestion. Anyone with symptoms should contact their physician.

(posted 6/25/09)

Housing Event Scheduled

United Memorial Medical Center will celebrate the beginning of renovations to the new senior housing project, Jerome Towers, at a reception on June 9th from 4 to 6 pm at 16 Bank Street, Batavia. Retired New York State Senator, the Honorable Mary Lou Rath and the Sisters of Mercy will be honored at the event.

United Memorial, in partnership with Conifer Realty LLC, will renovate the top four floors of the former St. Jerome Hospital on Bank Street, Batavia, to achieve (37) one and two bedroom rental units for low and moderate income seniors.

The St. Jerome Hospital, which was operated by the Catholic Health System of WNY, merged with Genesee Memorial Hospital on January 1, 2000 to create United Memorial Medical Center. Since the merger nearly 10 years ago, the majority of the main hospital building on the Bank Street campus has been underutilized or vacant. In December 2007, United Memorial opened The Jerome Center, which houses comprehensive outpatient diagnostic services, occupational medicine, specialty and primary care services on the ground floor of the former St. Jerome Hospital.

The addition of senior housing will complete a multi-phased plan to repurpose the campus so that it once again fulfills a vital role in the Batavia community. The façade of the building will remain intact and remain as a treasured local landmark. Senior housing residents will have access to the medical services, gift shop and cafe located on the ground floor without having to exit the building. Residents

will also be able to enjoy the convenience of having the YMCA and Senior Center located within steps of the facility.

This project is expected to take a year to reach completion and represents an investment of \$8 million into downtown Batavia. Conifer LeChase Construction will manage the project. Architectural services were provided by Clark Patterson Lee.

(posted 6/2/09)

Healthcare Auxilian Day

Governor David Paterson has proclaimed May 13, 2009, as Healthcare Auxilian Day in New York State to recognize the dedicated auxiliaries who annually donate more than five million hours of service to their health care facilities and to their communities.

United Memorial honored all volunteers (auxiliaries) at a special luncheon on May 7th at Bohn's restaurant.

(posted 5/12/09)

Physician receives Sports Medicine Certification

United Memorial Medical Staff member and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Matthew J. Landfried, MD has received certification in the subspecialty of Orthopaedic Sports Medicine from the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, Inc.

Sports Medicine relates to the care of injuries resulting from athletic activities. Orthopaedic sports medicine specialists have cognitive and psychomotor skills that make them proficient in addressing conditioning, training, and fitness for athletic performance. This includes the role of dietary supplements, pharmaceuticals and nutrition in the short and long term health of athletes, coordination of medical care within athletic team settings with trainers, physical therapists, and physicians.

Sports Medicine Specialists provide "on-the-field" evaluations with comprehensive knowledge of soft tissue biomechanics, injury healing, and repair. They coordinate treatment options, both surgical and non-surgical, and possess an understanding of athletic equipment and orthotic devices for their use in prevention and management of athletic injuries.

Dr. Landfried is a partner in the Genesee Orthopaedics medical practice with locations at 33 Chandler Avenue, Batavia and 3 Handley Street, Perry. He is a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA and is Board Certified in Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Landfried is the Chair of the Surgical Department and Chief of Surgery at United Memorial.

(posted 4/6/09)

United Memorial Responds to Economic Conditions

For the past three months, United Memorial has been working to take pro-active steps in positioning the organization to effectively cope with the impact of reduced reimbursements from governmental payers and the effects of the declining stock market. To remain financially viable and protect the high level of service provided to our patients, we have applied organizational changes.

United Memorial began implementing several cost saving strategies in January which included limiting expenses unrelated to patient care, restricting the travel and education budgets and re-evaluating projects and capital purchases. All contracts for supplies, utilities and services were re-examined for cost savings. The Cardiac Rehab program was altered to increase class size and allow

fewer days of operation. The Process Improvement Department was restructured under Quality Management and the employee shuttle service was outsourced.

As a part of this process, 16 vacant open positions with the equivalent hours of 12 full time employees were eliminated and since January, 14 employees were let go. While the 14 individuals affected by this action account for less than 2% of our 770 person workforce, they were our colleagues, co-workers and friends. Each possessed admirable work ethics and they have collectively provided the Hospital with decades of respected service. Those that were eligible were offered severance packages and where appropriate, options to extend their healthcare coverage.

The eliminated positions include three in management and 27 support staff.

The Surgical Expansion and Affordable Senior Housing Projects will continue as planned. The Hospital leadership team has worked conscientiously to make decisions that will allow United Memorial to continue to grow and provide quality services that meet the healthcare needs of our community.

(posted 3/4/09)

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

In recognition of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, United Memorial urges men and women over aged 50 to get screened for colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in men and women in the United States, excluding skin cancers, and the third leading cause of cancer-related death in New York State. Approximately, 11,000 new cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed each year in New York, and 4,000 men and women die from the disease annually.

Colorectal Cancer is the term used for cancers that start in the colon or the rectum. Colorectal cancer often starts as a small growth called a polyp, long before symptoms appear. A polyp is a non-cancerous growth of tissue or tumor that grows before cancer develops. A polyp grows on the lining of the colon or rectum and may change into cancer. "Screening tests can prevent cancer by finding it early when the chance of being cured is very good," said Michael Merrill, MD, VP of Medical Affairs.

All men and women ages 50 and older should be screened for colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer can affect anyone, men and women alike, and the risk only increases with age. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 90 percent of colon cancer cases occur in people aged 50 and older.

Some people are at greater risk for the disease than others, though, such as those with a personal or family history of colorectal cancer, history of intestinal polyps or inflammatory bowel disease, and people with a history of certain inherited diseases such as familial adenomatous polyposis and hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer.

Colorectal cancer can be prevented or detected early through regular screening. United Memorial Medical Center urges you to lower your risk of developing colorectal cancer by:

Getting Screened - Begin regular screening at age 50. If you have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps, or a personal history of another cancer or inflammatory bowel disease, talk to your health care provider about getting screened before age 50.

Eating Healthy - Enjoy a low-fat diet that is rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains from breads, cereals, nuts, and beans. Eat foods with folate such as green, leafy vegetables. A daily multivitamin containing .4mg of folic acid may also be helpful.

Kicking the Habit - If you use tobacco, quit. If you don't use tobacco, don't start.

Skipping the Alcohol - If you use alcohol, drink only in moderation. Alcohol and tobacco in combination are linked to colorectal cancer and other gastrointestinal cancers.

Getting Moving - Exercise for at least 20 minutes three to four days each week. Moderate exercise such as walking, gardening, or climbing may help reduce your risk.

“Talking with your healthcare provider is vital when it comes to preventing colorectal cancer, stressed Dr. Merrill, colorectal cancer is easily treated and often curable when detected early. The tests are often covered by Medicare and many health insurers.”

If you are uninsured or underinsured there is a program in this community that provides access to free colorectal cancer screening. Call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262) to find the cancer screening program near you. For more information about colorectal cancer, contact the Genesee Orleans Cancer Partnership at (585)344-5497 or visit us on-line at www.ummc.org.

New Treatment Options for Incontinence, Kidney Stones and Enlarged Prostate

Urologist Ralph R. Madeb, MD will present new options available in Genesee County for the treatment of incontinence, kidney stones and enlarged prostate at a free community health talk on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Healthy Living Classroom, 211 East Main Street, Batavia.

Dr. Madeb is a Clinical Urologist who practices in Batavia and a member of the United Memorial Medical Staff. He is an Assistant Professor of Urology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, and Medical Director for the Telemedicine Unit of Rochester General Hospital. Dr. Madeb specializes in diseases of the Urinary System including prostate; kidney stones; overactive bladder; urinary incontinence; erectile dysfunction; urinary system cancer and other urologic conditions.

To reserve a seat at this free event, please contact (585) 344-5331. Light refreshments will be served.

(posted 03/13/09)

Diabetes Education Program at United Memorial Merits ADA Recognition

United Memorial Medical Center has been awarded the prestigious American Diabetes Association Education Recognition Certificate from December 2008 through December 2011. This award indicates the hospital's continued commitment in providing high-quality self-management education essential to effective diabetes treatment.

The Association's Recognition Certificate assures that educational programs meet the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs. This recognition confirms that United Memorial maintains a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide patients with both diabetes management information and high-quality service.

The American Diabetes Association has determined that diabetes afflicts 20.8 million people; estimated at 7% of the United States population. While an estimated 14.6 million people have been diagnosed, 6.2 million are most likely unaware of even having this disease. Many will not initially learn of their diabetic condition until being treated for one of its several life-threatening complications – heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, blindness, nerve disease and amputation.

With approximately 4,110 people being diagnosed with diabetes each day, the American Diabetes Associates forges ahead as the nation's leading non-profit health organization supporting all important diabetes research, advocacy and information for health professionals and the public. The association's web site – www.diabetes.org can be accessed online for further information. To inquire about United Memorial's educational program on diabetes please call the Healthy Living Department at (585) 344-5331.

(posted 03/13/09)

Power Issues at United Memorial

Early this morning, United Memorial was made aware of potentially dangerous power issues at the North Street Campus. A transfer switch which allows approximately 75% of the Hospital's electrical needs to move to generator power, failed.

While the Hospital was operational and functioning "on the grid" using regular electrical service, the lack of a redundancy system required the cancellation of all surgeries and placed the Emergency Department on diversion. All incoming ambulances were diverted to Millard Fillmore Suburban and other area hospitals.

In order to diagnose and correct the power issue, United Memorial went "off the grid" and was without power for approximately 16 minutes beginning at 12:20 pm today. This allowed crews to convert to a temporary manual switching system. In preparation for this event, United Memorial worked with the Genesee County Office of Emergency Management, City of Batavia Fire and Police, and the Department of Health to insure patient safety. Mobile generators and temporary lighting were brought in for critical electrical power needs and an internal labor pool was established to address issues due to the lack of elevator and computer services. Quality Management discharged patients that were expected to go home today prior to the power interruption and patient meals were delivered before elevator services were disconnected. A notice was also sent to all members of the Medical Staff alerting them to the situation.

This afternoon, electrical crews worked to move two operating rooms off of the manual switching system over to an automatic transfer switch. In an unexpected power failure due to circumstances such as weather or an accident, this conversion will allow generator power to become effective in a matter of seconds, with a manual transfer to generator power, 3-5 minutes are necessary. This conversion was completed by 5:15 pm and the Hospital ended the diversion of ambulances. United Memorial is now operating at its regular capacity.

A permanent replacement of the faulty transfer switch should occur in the next 2-3 weeks when the customized part becomes available. There were no negative impacts to patient care during this incident and the Hospital would like to express their gratitude to the staff of United Memorial, the Genesee County Office of Emergency Management, City of Batavia Fire and Police Departments, our patients and visitors who worked cooperatively with patience and understanding while we attended to a potential life safety issue.

(posted 02/13/09)

UMMC Nurse is President of State Association

Deborah Taylor, RN was recently elected as the President of the New York State Emergency Nurses Association (NYSENA). Debbie is a staff nurse in United Memorial's Emergency Department. She has been employed with the Hospital since 1984. She and her husband, Jack, reside in Batavia.

*The NYS ENA is a non-profit state council of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA). As a nationally chartered organization, NYSENA represents the interest of emergency nurses and their patients in the state of New York. New York holds the distinction of being the very first charter site of the national organization. The state council represents over two thousand emergency nurses interested in promoting improved emergency care throughout NYS. The dedicated efforts of its members in the area of public safety, continuing education, nursing research, and promotion of the profession serve to maintain quality of patient care and have a positive influence in the state.

(posted 01/31/09)

Physicians join United Memorial Medical Staff

The United Memorial Medical Center Board of Directors approved the addition of several physicians to the Medical Staff at their regular board meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

Joining the United Memorial Medical Staff as Associates are Jerry Svoboda, MD a Vascular Surgeon with Rochester Vascular Surgery Associates; Anshu Bais, MD and Arun Raman, MD who specialize in Internal Medicine and have joined Genesee Hospitalists, LLC a group the hospital contracts with for 24 hour physician services for inpatients; Ralph Madeb, MD, a new Urologist establishing a practice in Genesee County; and Fadi Hatem, MD, Enzo Fallone, MD, Dawn Riedy, MD and JulieAnn Warner, MD-all from the Rochester General Hospital Department of Pathology providing pathology services for United Memorial.

Eric TenBrock, MD was credentialed to provide Provisional Consulting for Sleep Studies for United Memorial's new Sleep Services program located at 229 Summit St., Batavia.

Additional credential providers include Sukhwinder Sandu, MD and Mark Wall, MD to provide on-call TeleRadiology service; Mary Traxler, GNP (General Nurse Practitioner) who joined the practice of Shoukri Wisa, MD; Crystal Crossett, RPA (Registered Physician's Assistant) joining the practice of Pediatrician Lalit Jain, MD; and Nicholas Osborne, RPA of FDR Medical Services, the physician group providing Emergency Medicine services.

(posted 01/07/09)