



Communique

April 11, 2019

A CGH Medical Center Publication

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Plain Language Emergency Codes to be Implemented May 1st

Code Green...Code Silver...Code Black...Code White...For many years, hospitals, including CGH, have used color-coded terms to announce emergencies within the hospital. The use of color codes was intended to convey essential information quickly with minimal misunderstanding to staff, while preventing stress and panic among patients and visitors to the hospital. Unfortunately, studies have shown that the risks of using color codes now outweigh the benefits.



Currently, there are no regulatory standards for these codes, so many hospitals make up their own. They can be confusing and unclear, not only to employees, but also to patients and visitors during emergency situations. In addition, some members of our staff, including medical students, interns, locum tenens physicians, and traveling physicians, work at other hospitals that have their own codes that may vary greatly from hospital to hospital, leading to more confusion.

"Hospitals across the country have received feedback from their patients stating that color codes increase their stress level," said Shirley Wolford, CGH Emergency Management Director. "Patients and visitors want to be informed and have asked hospitals for transparency, especially during crisis situations."

Therefore, in another step to improve and provide a safer workplace environment for our employees and higher quality care for our patients and visitors, CGH Medical Center is beginning the process of transitioning from the use of code words to announce an emergency to the use of plain language.

"Plain language is communication your audience can understand the first time they see or hear it," said Wolford. "People know what actions are required based on the information they receive." For example, codes will now begin with the Type of Alert (Facility, Medical, Security or Weather), followed by a Description of the Alert (fire, person with a weapon, tornado warning), followed by the Location of the Alert (ED Waiting Room, Medical Floor, Main Clinic – OB), followed by Instructions on what to do (if not determined by policy, such as seek safe shelter immediately, stay away from windows and take cover immediately). The only codes that will remain, but in the new format, are Code Blue, Stroke Alert, Trauma Alert, Code White, Code STEMI, Code PALS, Code Red, and Rider 26.

"In the past, if there was a person with a gun in the building, visitors would not know what a 'Code Silver' means, and there would be the possibility of them going to the area where the perpetrator is located," concluded Wolford. "The use of plain language will lessen confusion and may give innocent people an opportunity to get to a safer location."

"Nationally, the Joint Commission has recommended the standardization of emergency codes," said Dr. Paul Steinke, CGH President and CEO. "It is important that we all become familiar with the format of the new codes. I appreciate your help and support through this transition."

Please watch for more information about plain language codes and a new code cards for your CGH name badge coming soon!

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

IN THE RYBERG AUDITORIUM

**Wednesday, April 17
at noon**

**Monday, April 22
at 2 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 24
at 7:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, April 30
at noon**

Regional Patient Surge/ Evacuation Exercise

Be prepared! CGH will be participating in a regional patient surge/evacuation exercise in conjunction with IDPH. This exercise will take place the week of April 15 and will simulate two hospitals (CGH and OSF St. Anthony – Rockford) evacuating their patients to other facilities in the region.



"This exercise will be a simulation of moving patients, but please remember - NO patients will actually be moved," said Shirley Wolford, CGH Emergency Management Director. The key points of this exercise include:

- All departments with patients (both inpatient and outpatient) will send their patient lists and acuity levels to the Hospital Command Center (HCC).
- The HCC will have a team which will find locations for these patients in other hospitals or Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities.
- Methods of transport will be found to simulate transporting these patients to other facilities.

"This will be an excellent opportunity for CGH to review certain aspects of its evacuation plan and build on what we learn for future events."

Please note: This exercise will NOT include the CGH Main Clinic or outlying clinics.

CPR Simulation Room

If you need a 2nd person to come to the simulation room to help you with CPR, please contact Dana Conkrite in HR at extension 4845 or by e-mail at dana.conkrite@cghmc.com.

WANTED

**Baked Goods for the
CGH Health Foundation
May 8 Bake Sale & Dessert Auction and
Baskets for the May 10 Silent Auction**

**Bake Sale & Dessert Auction:
Janice Repass, ext. 3215 or Kim Przysucha, ext. 3630**

**Silent Auction:
Mimi Hicks, ext. 5745 or Rod Miniel, ext. 6030**

Downtown Open House



Thank you to everyone who attended our Ribbon Cutting and open house at the newly remodeled CGH Downtown Medical Center on April 10. Approximately 80 members of the community came out to celebrate the opening.

The CGH Downtown Medical Center is home to the Veterans Assistance Commission; Family Medicine, Upper Level: Dr. Angel Blazquez; Teresa Stout, APRN, FNP-C, CDE, and Julie Wardell, APRN, FNP-BC; the CGH Diabetes & Nutrition Center; Family Medicine, Lower Level: Dr. John Luckey and Shannon Scroggins, APN, FNP-BC; and the CGH Ready Care Clinic: Virginia Heal, DNP, APN, FNP-BC; Jordanna Devine, APN, NP-C; Norma Alvarado-Urrutia, APN, FNP-BC; and Susan Burnette, APN, FNP-C.

Thank You

Thank you for the prayers, cards and gifts, donations of ETO, and all the support that has helped me through this hard time. With all of your encouragement, you have provided me with some relief through a difficult time.

Cindy Britton
Courier

I would like to thank all of my co-workers and friends that were so generous with ETO, gift cards, notes, prayers, phone calls, and so much more.

Both Jeff and I had surgery within 5 days of each other. I had physical therapy for my knee, and Jeff had over 14 surgeries. It was a very tough time, but you made it easier to get through. God Bless you all.

With gratitude,
Yolie Fowler
Laboratory

**CGH Employee Mandatory Education
FY 2018-2019
Completion Required
by April 30**

Kids Count... Superheroes Wanted!

Here we go again! All in the name of giving a loving boost to children and adults in our Sauk Valley area. "Kids Count...Superheroes Wanted" is our theme for the 2019 CGH Health Foundation Annual Appeal, which features a May 8 Bake Sale and Dessert Auction and May 10 Silent Auction.

"We are honored to once again partner with fellow employees in doing good for others. Each year we look forward to seeing the amazing creations of CGHers," said Mimi Hicks, Daycare, co-chair of the Silent Auction with Beth Warner, Clinic Administration. "We are blown away by your generosity and caring. We will once again be taking photos of all the baskets and posting them on CGH HeartBeat. This will allow for the off-site clinics to participate."

"The Ryberg and classrooms will truly be a sight to behold at the annual Silent Auction," said Beth. "Add to the excitement by challenging your department to create a basket together. Consider doing a couple baskets for the good of our area communities! We would love to have every department participate in our events."

If you would like to donate a basket or dessert item, please let Amanda Blaine (ext.5575) or one of the co-chairs listed below know as soon as possible!

Bake Sale and Dessert Auction

Wednesday, May 8 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CGH Ryberg
Co-Chairs: Janice Repass, Main Clinic – GI (ext. 3215) and Kim Przysucha, Main Clinic – GI (ext. 3630)

Silent Auction

Friday, May 11 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Classroom 1, Classroom 2 and CGH Ryberg
Co-Chairs: Mimi Hicks, Daycare (ext. 5745) and Beth Warner, Clinic Administration (ext. 6110)

All proceeds from these events will go towards the 2019 CGH Health Foundation Annual Appeal. The new project we have this year is to provide state of the art equipment for CGH Pediatric Rehab. Items will include an immersive sensory integration room, a dynamic full-color interactive projector/motion capture system, an interactive light wall and an unweighing system biodex gait trainer.

With your help, we will be able to continue funding all other CGH Health Foundation projects including Pediatric Mental Health, Eyeglasses for Kids/Adults, Prescott Dental Clinic, Nutrition & Fitness, Love on a Leash, Cancer Comfort Care, Women's Health, Scholarships, Medication Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Ways to Wellness, Cardiac Wellness, Workplace Wellness, Diabetes Education and Community Health Network.

Please consider supporting these events. All proceeds stay in this community and help the people of the Sauk Valley!

April New Employees



Front Row (L - R): Kari Folkers (Housekeeper I, EVS); Kassi Henrekin (CNA, Obstetrics); Karmen Sage (LPN, Internal Medicine-Dixon); Lindsey Crow (Physical Therapy Aide, Physical Therapy), Connie Garza (Registration Clerk, Patient Access)

Back Row (L - R): Taylor Clark (Receptionist, Internal Medicine -Dixon); Lori Koritz (Food & Nutrition Assistant, Dietary); Connie Spears (Receptionist, Internal Medicine-Sterling); Paula Peikert (Registration Clerk, Patient Access); Kaitlin Vandermeye (RN, Surgery/OR); Tammie Evans – RN (Surgical)



Front Row (L - R): Silvia Favela (Medical Laboratory Assistant, Lab); Emily Nurnberger (CNA, Family Practice-Sterling); Yolanda Ramos (Phlebotomist, Lab); Jenn Porter (Echo Technologist, Cardio Lab); Marsha Malburg (RN, Medical)

Back Row (L - R): Steve Barkley (Systems Specialist, IT); Karen Mendoza (CNA, Surgical Floor); Nikki Nielsen (Medical Assistant, Float-Clinic); Mattheu Sobotka (Security, Per Mar); Cindy Kyarsgaard (Phlebotomist, Lab)

BBQ Thank You!



Thank you to all staff that helped serve and deliver delicious food to our employees from Smoked on Third during our staff BBQ on Wednesday, April 10. Hope you enjoyed it!

APRIL 2019

Employee of the Month



Patricia Skutt
RN, Nurse Navigator, CCU



I live in: Sterling

Joined CGH on: July 14, 2008

Education: Associate's Degree, Nursing

Family: Husband, Tony; son, Patrick; fabulous parents, siblings and tons of nieces and nephews

Proudest Achievement: Becoming the Patient Navigator for CCU and singing at Carnegie Hall last November

Hobbies: Singing, playing bells in bell choir, shopping, and entertaining my amazingly fun nieces and nephews

Tricia always does an excellent job helping with any tasks needed on the Unit. The past few months have been extremely busy. She always finds ways to complete her role as Patient Navigator as well as taking on extra patients, working later hours, and doing anything she can to take a load off the other staff. She keeps a smiling face and it is contagious! Patients and staff are grateful for all her hard work and the extra mile she goes for all of us.

~ Chuck Arwine, RN (CCU)

We congratulate her on being chosen April's Employee of the Month.

Purpose, Worthwhile Work, Making a Difference!

Hospital Happenings

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screenings

Screenings are held on the first Thursday of the month (**May 2**) from **8 to 9:30 a.m.** in the CGH Main Clinic lobby; second Thursdays (**May 9**), from **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the CGH Medical Center lobby; third Thursdays (**April 18, May 16**), from **3 to 4:30 p.m.** at County Market in Sterling; and third Fridays (**April 19, May 17**) at Westwood Fitness & Sports Center from **8 to 9:30 a.m.**



**CGH AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER
DISTINCTIVE GARDENS
MAY 3rd
7am - 4pm
CGH Medical Center RYBERG AUDITORIUM**

Masquerade™

JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES



**FUNDRAISING
SALE**

Thursday, April 18th 7 am – 6 pm

Friday, April 19th 7 am – 3 pm

*CGH Medical Center
Ryberg Auditorium*