Sepsis is Serious
As you may know, World Sepsis Day was September 13 and September was Sepsis Awareness Month. In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has included sepsis with the list of Core Measures. Hospitals participating in the inpatient quality reporting program began monitoring patients with sepsis starting with discharges on or after October 1, 2015. As an organization, it is imperative to provide timely, quality care in order to achieve the best patient outcomes. Monitoring includes labs (CBC, Lactate, and blood cultures), VS (temperature, HR and BP) as well as indications of organ dysfunction. Clinical staff need to be aware of the signs of severe sepsis and septic shock. A BPA (Best Practice Advisory) will alarm in EPIC for patients with suspected sepsis that meet specific criteria. The Resource Nurse, Rapid Response Team, Attending physician and/or Intensivist must be notified of these alarms. Know your patient and know the signs and symptoms of sepsis. And remember…..SEPSIS IS SERIOUS…

Nurse Residency Program
The New Grad Residency Program is starting their 5th cohort in November 2015. In order to deliver quality patient care we must engage nurses from the start and train them to be critical thinkers and leaders. The program is designed to empower nurses, increase staff satisfaction, promote professional commitment as well as develop staff competence and confidence. So far almost 60 new Suburban nurses have been a part of the residency program! In addition to the yearlong learning on a variety of topics relatable to all, residents research and present an Evidence Based Practice project. Content is designed to provide education and training on topics regarding patient outcomes, safety and leadership while tailoring the content to reflect the practice and policy of Suburban Hospital. We are thrilled to be a part of this innovative program.

Suburban’s New Flex Team
We are proud to announce an innovative new float pool system for RNs, Suburban Hospital’s Flex Team. Our dedication to excellent care is built on strong nursing teams comprised of full-time nursing staff, per diems and our newly introduced Flex Team. Nurses will have the exciting opportunity to work across multiple settings, creating challenging and diverse opportunities for continuous learning and networking.

Experience a full suite of benefits beyond a competitive rate, including:

• Generous paid vacation and holiday pay
• Tuition reimbursement
• Health insurance

Flex Team RNs must have five years of Med-surg or Critical Care experience.

Learn more about this opportunity. Visit www.suburbanhospital.org or contact us directly at email: vperrow1@jhmi.edu or call (301) 896-3023.

Our August 2015 “graduates” and a few of their educators after presenting EBP projects to Nursing Leadership.
**Noteworthy Nurses** - Congratulations to the following nurses!

- Adrian Poston, MBA, CCRN completed his BSN
- Susan Ross completed her BSN
- Mary Welsh is a CEN (Certified Emergency Nurse). She is DUAL certified, possessing both CCRN and CEN.
- Colleen Hobson is ACM (American Case Management) certified.
- Sarah Rasmussen is certified as an EPIC Clinical Content Builder.
- Elizabeth Gabriel is a Board Certified Gerontological Nurse
- Cindy Stone RN CCDS (Certified Clinical Documentation Specialist)
- Lewis Wilson is certified in psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing
- Julie Anne Cook, RN, MSN/MPH, APHN-BC is a Contributing author to: Public Health Science and Nursing Practice Caring for Populations Chapter 10 Mental Health Graduate level Public Health Nursing text
- Marge Donovan, ICU Assistant Nurse Manager was recognized November 12, 2015 at the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium 4th Synergy Symposium as a donation champion.

**Fall Fest**

The hospital’s Quality, Safety and Service Council will be conducting a month long Fall Fest beginning today to highlight falls awareness. A “fall doll” will be on each unit for one week throughout the month along with a short falls quiz. The unit that does that best on the quiz will receive a prize of sub sandwiches!

The goal of this project is to re-educate staff on falls prevention. Additionally, we will be encouraging staff to engage patients and their family members about their fall risk and fall preventions measures that are in place.

Staff are urged to wear special bright yellow fall prevention stickers through the month of November to help invite the conversation with patients and families. The stickers will be available on nursing units.

Fall Fest coincides with the 4th anniversary of the Suburban Hospital MORSE team. Learn more about the MORSE team here: [http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/publications/dome/march_2012/a_team_approach_to_preventing_falls](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/publications/dome/march_2012/a_team_approach_to_preventing_falls)

**Suburban’s "Shining Star"**!

Each year the Johns Hopkins Healthcare System recognizes outstanding nurses with The Shining Star Award. Those eligible for nomination are “Hopkins nurses who demonstrate clinical excellence in their area of nursing to improve the quality of patient care and have made a significant difference to the nursing profession”.

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Marge Donovan (left), Adrian Poston (top right), and Susan Ross

Pat Gabriel, RN, CEN, CPEN, nurse educator for the ED, Peds and CDU
Pat Gabriel, RN, CEN, CPEN, nurse educator for the ED, Peds and CDU represented Suburban this year and was awarded a Shining Star at “A Night With the Stars” September 26, 2015.

Wink Mackay, critical care nurse educator, works closely with Pat and submitted a compelling nomination listing many of Pat’s contributions. She included mentoring, promoting specialty certification, work on a blood culture contamination project, and bedside shift report in-services. Additionally, she is involved with house wide committees such as Profession Practice Council, Code Blue Committee, the Sepsis Management Group and the No One Dies Alone initiative.

It is clear that Pat is not only respected and valued as an educator but treasured as a colleague; the nurses she supports call her “Angel Gabriel”.

Please congratulate Pat on this honor and thank her for her contributions!

Nursing Research Presentations

On October 2, 2015 Critical Care Nurse Educator Wink Mackay RN, MSN, CCRN presented a poster at the 6th Annual Armstrong Patient Safety Summit at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her poster on Alarm Fatigue in the ICU illustrates that alarm fatigue is well recognized and can result in significant patient harm. The Emergent Care Research Institute identified 216 U.S. Hospital deaths from 2005 to 2010 as a direct result of alarm fatigue.

At the same conference, PCU Nurse Manager Cora Abundo RN, BSN and PCU CUSP Champion Melissa Shively RN, BSN presented their project titled “Improved Patient Safety Through An Acuity Driven Tool For Equitable Geographic Assignments on the Progressive Care unit (PCU).

They shared their work again at the 112th Annual Maryland Nurses Association Convention on October 22 & 23.

Please provide feedback on our nursing practice model

On a regular basis, in accordance with our shared governance model of nursing practice here at Suburban Hospital, we like to reach out to you for assistance in reviewing our nursing practice model to ensure that it is still an accurate reflection of our values and principles. And this year, we are also excited to engage you in an effort to help us identify priority areas of focus as we develop our new Nursing Strategic Plan, which will help us to prioritize initiatives and efforts over the next few years.

Your thoughts and opinions are valued, and your participation is very important!

We hope that you will take a few moments to complete a brief survey at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FWTC3LW

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Readmissions: What You Need to Know

The Readmission Program members at Suburban are hard at work to reduce the number of readmissions to the hospital after discharge. Through internal collaboration among caregivers and partnerships with Healthcare providers in the community, our readmission rate is declining. To read the full story on our Readmission initiative, follow this link: http://ship/dailyexpress/DEImages/Readmissions%20Issue%20201.pdf