

“You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

—Anonymous

# Inter-disciplinary rounds

*ensuring all disciplines are on the same page*

Several years ago, nursing director, Kathie Myers, RN, and clinical nurse specialist, Joanne Empoliti, RN, implemented inter-disciplinary rounds on the White 6 Orthopaedics Unit. The goal was to ensure a coordinated plan of care for patients by involving all disciplines in morning rounds. Myers recalls, “At first, I spent a great deal of time just making sure everyone showed up. But I knew once they did, they’d appreciate the value of having everyone together to share information.” White 6 has been selected to be an innovation unit where their inter-disciplinary rounding will be key to ensuring timely, coordinated care for all patients.

Every weekday morning, nurses, case managers, physical and occupa-

tional therapists, social workers, and either a nurse practitioner or physician review patients on the unit and have input into their plan of care and discharge.

Physical therapist, Catherine Royal, PT, says, “Inter-disciplinary rounds keeps everyone on the same page. We identify the target discharge date and discuss the post-hospital plan. Having everyone together at the same time, we all hear the same information and can craft our schedules accordingly in a way that’s best for the patient. It has definitely improved communication.”

Inter-disciplinary rounds on White 6 will be led by Jean Stewart, RN, and Kelly Brown, RN, who will share attending-nurse responsibilities for patients on their unit. Stewart has participated in inter-disciplinary rounds since their inception but notes that being an attending nurse has changed the way she presents patients.

Says Stewart, “By the time rounds begin, I’ve already consulted with nurses, so I’m better able to address any issues that arise during rounds. And because I have more in-depth knowledge about patients and their conditions, I’m better prepared to support patients and families as we work toward recovery and a timely discharge.”

For more information about how inter-disciplinary rounds were implemented on White 6, call Kathie Myers at 6-5319.



At inter-disciplinary rounds on White 6: (top photo l-r): Joan Mathews, OTR/L, occupational therapist; Brianne Lynch, PT, physical therapist; Jean Stewart, RN, attending nurse; Karen Smith, RN, case manager; Robert Dorman, PT, physical therapist; Susan Streeter, LICSW, social worker; and Joanne Empoliti, RN, clinical nurse specialist (front).

(Photos by Joe Ferraro)