UTMB Health celebrates National Promotores de Salud and Community Health Workers Day

NOVEMBER 10-11

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE (OCTOBER 13, 2011)

“I send greetings to all those celebrating National Promotores de Salud and community Health Workers Day.

Ensuring all Americans can lead healthy, productive lives helps create the opportunity for our people to achieve their dreams. While we have made tremendous advances in medicine and technology, far too many Americans are affected by disparities in our health care system, including racial and ethnic minorities, and particularly those living with lower incomes.

Across our Nation, Promotores help bridge the disparity gap by working as public health advocates in communities with which they have a unique connection. From providing education on wellness to connecting individuals and families to vital health and social services, these compassionate volunteers and professionals are helping us build a brighter, healthier tomorrow for all Americans.

As you celebrate the work of these dedicated health care workers, I wish you all the best.”

—President Barack Obama
Sigma Infusion Pumps are live

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston implemented a new large volume infusion pump, the Sigma Spectrum Infusion System from Baxter on October 25, 2011.

The Spectrum has a robust drug library, alarms and configurations which have been customized by UTMB for 10 different care areas and the end users. It is intuitive to use and has several safety features which include Generation 2 Drug Error Reduction Software, Check Flow at Run, Secondary Container Error Prevention along with Single Step Titration Error Prevention. The pump is wireless so changes in the drug library are easy to make.

There was involvement from Nursing Personnel, Anesthesia and Pharmacy to build a robust drug library. Clinical Equipment Services (CES) and Information Services (IS) were involved with the numerous details surrounding the Spectrum’s wireless capability. CES had a major job in getting the pumps and pump carriers ready to go to the units and offsite clinics. Last but not least, there was much assistance from Nursing, Anesthesia, Nursing Education and the Baxter Clinical Educators to train over 1000 nurses and Anesthesiologists before we could “go-live” on Tuesday.

UTMB core team members for this project were Michelle Bennett, Donna Graves, MSN, RN, CCRN, Tim Hilt, BSN, RN-BC, CCRN, Scott Key, Susan McKay, RPh, Michelle Nix, Deborah Murphy, MSN, RN-BC, and Paula Townley, MSN, RN.

Go live team members included Deatra Delcambre, MSN, RN-BC, Dr. Sean Funston, Donna Graves, Jamie Heffernan, BSN, RN, CCRN, Juan Hernandez, Scott Key, Susan McKay, Eppy Molina, Gail Steinson, Paula Townley and several Baxter clinicians and representatives.

Volunteer Services receives donation from UTMB Auxiliary!

By Ben Dzialo, Health System Operations Manager

Our coffee volunteers are some of the most visible individuals on campus. They provide our patients and guests with a free drink and a smile, which can help make the wait for their appointments a more pleasant experience.

When Hurricane Ike struck, Volunteer Services lost their coffee cart. When Jim Strickland, a volunteer at UTMB for over 15 years, returned, he constructed a makeshift cart using 2x4s, an old creaky cart, and tennis balls.

Today, thanks to a donation from UTMB Auxiliary, our volunteers now have the Cadillac of coffee carts to reflect the high level of service they provided!
UTMB Hospital Galveston Hosts Thanksgiving Pot Luck

The UTMB Hospital Galveston team invited folks to a Thanksgiving potluck luncheon and dinner on Monday, November 7th. Turkeys were provided courtesy of the Hospital Galveston management team and side dishes were provided by TDCJ and HG employees. Prizes were presented throughout the lunch and dinner serving times. The donation and meal preparation for this event was great testament to the collaborative team spirit continuing to develop at Hospital Galveston.

UTMB Health Bay Colony Dermatology receives Talk of the Town Award

UTMB Bay Colony Dermatology in League City has been rated among the best in the region for customer satisfaction by Talk of the Town.

Talk of the Town is a company that provides comprehensive and accurate research in the area of customer satisfaction utilizing a fair, balanced rating system. Ratings are calculated based on consumer-review websites and blogs, social networks, business rating services and other award information to determine the top companies across the country.

Only those high ranking businesses with a 4-5 star rating win the Talk of the Town News Customer Satisfaction Award.

Congratulations, Bay Colony Dermatology!

Dear UTMB….

My wife and I would like to commend your Doctors, Nurses and staff for the wonderful treatment that they provided to my wife during the period 13 thru 17 October of this year. My wife suffers from COPD (emphysema) and had a bad attack on the evening of 13 October 2011. We called 911 and the EMTs that responded were wonderful. She was brought to your Emergency Room and that’s when the professionalism and kindness of your hospital started. She was given a chest x-ray and CAT scan within the first hour. She was diagnosed with a slight case of pneumonia and was processed for admission to the hospital. Your ER staff was marvelous.

My wife was admitted to the hospital to Unit J5. Again all of the nurses, respiratory therapists and techs were super in their professionalism and pleasant with attentive attitudes. She was treated by Drs. Gabriel L. Reep and Jason B. Welch who were magnificent.

The arrangements for my wife’s departure were very involved since she would need oxygen for the flight home. Ms. Margaret Neidhart, RN then came into the picture. She went out of her way to ensure that all of the complex paperwork was accomplished and that we received the proper air concentrator to use on the airplane ride home. She was wonderful. I am a retired Army Officer and I recognize excellence when I come across it and all of your staff members were excellent.

Please pass these comments to all involved and again thanks for your medical care and kindness!

SHOUT OUTS!

Congratulations to everyone who helped make the move of 9A Surgery to the newly modernized unit on 8C a success!

On November 3, the Access Center temporarily lost power, but as a result had a chance to “test” their emergency plan. The team had to work from a remote location, but came together to do a spectacular job. Melinda Gurukos commented, “The patients never knew that we were in disaster mode and that we were not in our home location. How great is that! We are truly, ‘Changing lives 1 phone call at a time.’” Special recognition goes to everyone who helped pull off the day, including Grant Broussard, Jesse Seelbach, John Lynch, George Rivas, Marie Leal, Patricia Jones, Raymond Deng, Jamie Holmes-Rozier, Randy Allison, and many others!

William Jones (Transplant) is an excellent and polite gentleman. UTMB need more people like him to help patients like me make us feel better. Make our days brighter too!!

Leon McGrew works on the ACE unit floor. He is an excellent nurse. He is a professional who explains everything in detail and is very friendly.

Donald Dillon (Morrison Services) served many of my meals and I cannot praise him enough. His demeanor, appearance and kindness was exemplary.

Other Positive Mentions

Tawnya Jackson, Mark Rosenfelder and Autumn Paight (CT/ Vascular Surgery); Tameka Scott, Deniece Russell, Courtney Parry, Denitra Richardson (9A Surgery); Dr. Shehzad Newaz Merwat, GI Fellow, (ACE Unit); James Valdez (Morrison Services); Ericka Freeman (HCS – Clinical Staffing Solutions); Aliciaen Berg (CT/Vascular Surgery)
are you ready to connect?

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

8:30am – 10:30am
Levin Hall 2.222

Please join UTMB Executive Leadership as UTMB Health kicks off UTMB Connect, a high-priority, mission-critical initiative — one that will demand considerable work and attention over the next two years.

UTMB Connect will prepare us for new, federally mandated documentation and coding requirements needed to bill patients for our services (ICD-10 CM/PCS). It will also replace all revenue cycle information systems, such as Siemens Invision, Signature and charge automation software.

The meeting will consist of a project description and a demonstration of the system’s capabilities.

Please join us for this important initiative and invite anyone on your team who will benefit from this overview and demonstration!

THE MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE AT
http://129.109.152.33/stream.sdp

Requires latest Apple QuickTime software (must be installed PRIOR to the live webcast) http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

For more information, please visit www.utmb.edu/connect