Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed the beautiful New England weather this weekend and got to spend some time with family and friends, doing what relaxes, inspires, and invigorates you. And while Memorial Day weekend is often filled with cookouts and fun times at a park or the beach, we all need to remember the true meaning of the day – to remember and honor those who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

To kick off the Memorial Day weekend, Women & Infants hosted a beautiful Flagpole Ceremony on Friday. Attended by many of our staff who are also veterans, the event included an Honor Guard with a presentation of the colors, and beautiful renditions of the National Anthem sung by Yudelky Cesarina Francisco and of taps as played by Mario Borgess. Matt Quin, Women & Infants interim chief operating officer and chief nursing officer, presented a wreath to Stephen Carr, MD, who is not only a wonderful physician leader at Women & Infants but also a colonel in the Rhode Island Air National Guard and the State Air Surgeon, which was laid upon the flagpole at the entrance of Women & Infants. Before adjourning, Helen Bodell, M.Div., chaplain, delivered a lovely blessing. What a beautiful tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.
Last week we had the opportunity to offer thanks and gratitude for their tireless work in the community to our emergency medical services workers for EMS Week. Kent Hospital hosted a cookout for all in the EMT and paramedic community in celebration and recognition of all they do. To all who serve our community, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Finally, last week The Joint Commission visited Butler Hospital to follow up on action items for the previous survey, many of which pertained to ligature risks in the hospital. As Dr. James Sullivan, senior vice president and chief medical officer, reported, Butler’s facilities team addressed more than 1,500 hardware/structural hospital components in the past 18 months to bring Butler in line with new regulatory requirements. That effort paid off, as the surveyor found all items complete, and Butler now has full hospital accreditation from The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Well done!

I hope you all have a great week.

Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Kent Hospital launches first pasteurized donor human milk program in the state

This May, Kent Hospital’s Women’s Care Center launched the first pasteurized donor human milk program in the state. This program supports breastfeeding families by allowing them the option of providing their infant with pasteurized donor human milk, if supplementation is needed, as a bridge until a mother’s own milk is available.

On Monday, May 6, the first infant received pasteurized donor human milk at Kent Hospital. Prior to being discharged home, the infant received donor milk for a total of three days, in addition to nursing, and the mother was encouraged to pump in order to maximize her own milk production.

Kristine Rimbos, MS, RNC-OB, interim director at the Women’s Care Center at Kent said, “We are thrilled to offer donor milk as a safe, evidence-based alternative that supports our breastfeeding families. The nursing and medical team at Kent is committed to supporting feeding choices and ensuring high quality outcomes. This program is a win-win for our community and the patients that we serve.”

The donor milk comes from Mother’s Milk Bank Northeast, the premier non-profit milk bank in the Northeast. Mother’s Milk Bank carefully screens all their donors, who are mothers with excess pumped breast milk, to share with other infants. The milk is then carefully processed, tested, and distributed to hospitals and families in need.

Susan Bryant, MSN, RN, IBCLC, lactation consultant at the Women’s Care Center at Kent said, “Kent Hospital’s commitment to a pasteurized donor human milk program, as a bridge to exclusive breastfeeding, will help our postpartum mothers achieve their breastfeeding goals, and ensure that our babies get off to their best start. Since our first recipient, two other families have been able to benefit from our donor milk program, and we anticipate many more in the future. Our families have been extremely thankful for this option, which allows them to provide their infant with an exclusive breast milk diet, when supplementation is necessary.”

Kent Hospital hosted annual cancer survivorship event

On Friday, May 24, the Kent Hospital Breast Health Center held its ninth annual cancer survivorship fair, “One Scoop at a Time” at the Cranston Country Club. The event kicked off with guest speakers, Erik Hoy, MD, MBA, who presented Refinements in Breast Reconstruction; Maria Aileen Soriana-Pisaturo, MD, who presented Palliative Care; Lisa Diebold, MSPT, CLT-LANA, who presented Lymphedema 101 – What You Need to Know; Liz Minda, RN and Lori Engustian, who presented Medical Marijuana – The Basics; and Rhonda Corey, who presented Laughter is the Best Medicine. More than 150 people were in attendance and enjoyed a delicious lunch, ice cream sundae bar, and boutique shopping from local Rhode Island vendors.
Care New England report published in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*

Last week, the *Journal of Palliative Medicine* published “Using Nurse Care Managers Trained in the Serious Illness Conversation Guide to Increase Goals-of-Care Conversations in an Accountable Care Organization,” a report by Kate Lally, MD, FACP, FAAHPM, formerly of Care New England; Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, FACP, AGSF, executive chief of Geriatrics and Palliative Care for Care New England and medical director for Integra; Constance Ducharme, RN, Integra; Ruth Scott, RN, MHA, director of care management at Integra; and JoAnn Filpo, resource specialist at Integra.

The report discussed increases in the number of serious illness conversations occurring in an accountable care organization (ACO) using a script delivered telephonically by nurse care managers. Integra, our ACO, is at the vanguard of care in population health and is the most productive ACO in the region.

Working with nurses previously trained in the basics of geriatric assessment and goals-of-care conversations, the team at Care New England used a quality improvement framework to modify the Ariadne Laboratories Serious Illness Conversation Guide to a six-question script. As a result, the documentation of goals-of-care conversations increased from 33 percent of patients in the subpopulation during the first month of this project to 86 percent at the end of the first year. Nurse care managers reported that clinical outcomes are improved by these conversations, which demonstrates a unique way to modify the Serious Illness Conversation Guide for use by nurses as part of a health care team.

Research led by Dr. Dwight Rouse and maternal-fetal medicine team named to “Drazen’s Dozen”

As Jeff Drazen, editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, prepares to retire, last week he announced the selection of a dozen articles published during his 19 year tenure that “stand out to him as the most important and useful articles that physicians could act on immediately to improve patient care.” On that list of *Drazen’s Dozens* was Labor Induction versus Expectant Management in Low-Risk Nulliparous Women which was published last year and was co-authored by Dwight Rouse, MD, of the Women & Infants Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

According to the study funded by the National Institutes of Health, healthy first-time mothers whose labor was induced in the 39th week of pregnancy were less likely to deliver by cesarean section, compared with those who waited for labor to begin naturally. Researchers also found that infants born to women induced at 39 weeks were no more likely to experience stillbirth, newborn death, or other severe complications, compared with infants born to uninduced women. The study also found that mothers in the induction group had significantly lower rates of hypertensive complications of pregnancy at nine percent vs. 14 percent, and babies of mothers in the induction group had a significantly lower risk of breathing problems at three percent vs. four percent.

Due to the tremendous efforts of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine research team led by principal investigator, Dr. Rouse, and research supervisor, Donna Allard, Women & Infants Hospital enrolled 484 women in this study, more than any other participating hospital.

*continued >*
Taro Minami, MD, has been named director of medical simulation and point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) training for the Department of Medicine at Kent Hospital and Care New England.

Dr. Minami completed his training in internal medicine (IM) and epidemiology in Kyoto, Japan, and later completed his residency in IM at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, NY. Dr. Minami first came to Rhode Island and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in 2006 to serve as the chief medical resident at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (MHIRI) and subsequently completed fellowships in pulmonary, sleep, and critical care, in New York before returning to Rhode Island. He is presently an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School and has received several awards including the Dean’s Excellence in Teaching Award and the prestigious Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Dr. Minami’s primary interests in teaching and scholarly work are POCUS, critical care ultrasonography (CCUS), simulation training, patient safety, and human errors in medicine. He has an international reputation in these fields, teaching CCUS and POCUS programs at both national and international conferences, including the annual meeting of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP).

In addition to his clinical work in pulmonary and critical care, Dr. Minami will now also be leading our efforts to enhance the skills of our internal medicine residents, hospitalists, and critical care providers in this important area of IM practice.

Two VNA nurses inducted into Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society

Melanie Gambardella, LPN, and Kerri Rossi, LPN, who started their careers with the VNA of Care New England as LPNs, recently graduated from the nursing program at Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). After deciding to go back to school to become RNs four years ago, they successfully completed two years of pre-requisites before entering the program, all while working for the VNA full time. This meant accommodating long hours of work and studying, during the week and on weekends. Their hard work paid off on Thursday, May 16, when they graduated from the program, had their pinning ceremony, and were inducted into the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society. They look forward to taking their NCLEX exams this summer and officially adding the title of RN to their names.

VNA OF CARE NEW ENGLAND

Annual system-wide mandatory education

Care New England is introducing a system-wide core curriculum for annual mandatory education, also known as “mandatories,” through the HealthStream learning management system.

This core curriculum will apply to all CNE operating units and includes modules in the following subject areas: Safety, Quality, Risk, Infection Prevention and Control, Human Resources, HIPAA and Compliance, and Environment of Care. The core curriculum will be assigned on June 1, 2019 with a completion date of November 30, 2019. We recommend you pace yourself, please do not let the marathon become a sprint; you have six months to complete all assignments.

Most courses will now include a pre-assessment to provide workforce members with strong existing knowledge of a subject area an opportunity to “test out” of a course if passed with an 80 percent or higher on the first attempt. There may also be some operating unit-specific or role-based courses not included in the system-wide core curriculum that will be assigned separately. Butler Hospital will continue its practice of conducting an annual Education Fair, covering the same curriculum.

If you have questions regarding HealthStream or your annual mandatory education assignment, please contact TeamHS@CareNE.org.

If you are having technical difficulties logging into HealthStream or need your password reset, please contact the Help Desk at (401) 921-1000 (ext. 11000 internally) or HelpDesk@CareNE.org.
Rhode Islanders deserve the facts about Care New England and Brigham Health’s commitment to providing world-class health care locally. Care New England and Brigham Health have jointly launched a new website, RIHealthFuture.com, to provide information to our community about the benefits of this proposal and offer details on how we will keep care local and affordable, improve infrastructure, and create opportunities for the expansion of ambulatory care and jobs. Please visit the site and our social media channels (RIHealthFuture on Facebook and @RIHealthFuture on Twitter), review the information, and get the facts. Use your social media connections to help share this information with your friends, family, and the community. If you want to take it a step further, perhaps you could share your personal reasons why this is so important to you either as an employee, patient, or simply a concerned member of our community. To learn more visit RIHealthFuture.com.

On Sunday, May 5, as a special tribute to Mental Health Month, New England Institute of Technology (NEIT), graciously donated the floral arrangements from its commencement ceremony to The Providence Center’s Women’s Road to Recovery; a residential treatment program which meets the unique needs of women, including trauma, domestic violence, pregnancy, parenting, education, and employment, throughout their recovery journey.

Four NEIT students, who work within Women’s Road to Recovery as occupational therapy assistants, and Sheri Lough, OTRL, and NEIT faculty fieldwork educator, used some of the flowers to create beautiful sun catchers as part of their group therapy project. Following the activity, the women in the program took part in a group discussion regarding the various ways the activity required concentration, planning, problem solving, social skills, sharing, and communication, all of which are skills needed in the recovery process. Women in the program were happy to receive the gift, stating that it gave them hope for the future and inspired them to spread kindness by “paying it forward” themselves.

Get the facts at RIHealthFuture.com

Rhode Islanders deserve the facts about Care New England and Brigham Health’s commitment to providing world-class health care locally. Care New England and Brigham Health have jointly launched a new website, RIHealthFuture.com, to provide information to our community about the benefits of this proposal and offer details on how we will keep care local and affordable, improve infrastructure, and create opportunities for the expansion of ambulatory care and jobs. Please visit the site and our social media channels (RIHealthFuture on Facebook and @RIHealthFuture on Twitter), review the information, and get the facts. Use your social media connections to help share this information with your friends, family, and the community. If you want to take it a step further, perhaps you could share your personal reasons why this is so important to you either as an employee, patient, or simply a concerned member of our community. To learn more visit RIHealthFuture.com.

We are currently recruiting for nurse and clinical positions across Care New England. We encourage you to serve as hospital ambassadors and draw from your personal talent pool of friends, professional contacts, and others whom you believe have what it takes to join us and be a part of our energized and focused team concentrating on clinical excellence, quality and safety, professional development and education, collaboration, and teamwork. Sign-on bonuses are offered in key nursing areas. If you have any questions, please stop by HR. To learn about our current job openings in nursing, visit carenewengland.org/nursing, for other clinical job openings, visit carenewengland.org/careers.

Nurse and clinical job recruitment at Care New England