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“I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a fulfilling and peaceful holiday.”

Good day! I want to provide an update for our staff on the planned closure of Memorial Hospital.

Last week, there was focus around the closure of Memorial's ICU and our work with the Department of Health and state and local leaders. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of our commitment to collaboration throughout this process as plans continue to take shape about what services will close or may continue to be available in the Pawtucket community. With this in mind, we are meeting regularly with state and local leaders to ensure open dialogue, information sharing, and details on the phased steps that are necessary for hospital closure planning.

The full text of the news release CNE distributed follows. I hope this will provide additional insight and information for you. In addition to these updates, I hope you will all take advantage of the town meetings that will be taking place over the next several weeks. These will provide an opportunity for our staff to hear updates on key issues from Dr. Fanale, ask questions, and express concerns. The first meeting was held at Women & Infants last week. Other meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 21 at 3:30 p.m. at Ray Hall at Butler Hospital and on Monday, November 27 at 2 p.m. in the Doctors' Auditorium at Kent Hospital. Another session is also being scheduled for Service Avenue staff. That information will be shared once the date and time have been confirmed.

Finally, with Thanksgiving approaching, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a fulfilling and peaceful holiday. I hope you have the opportunity to spend time with those you hold dear—and to eat a little more than you should!

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Care New England provides update on Memorial Hospital

Care New England (CNE) provides this update regarding its ongoing efforts to coordinate the announced closure of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in Pawtucket. With its primary focus on ensuring patient care and safety during the transition process, hospital leaders are working closely with the Rhode Island Department of Health both on its comprehensive Plan of Closure for Memorial and other changes in service as they develop.

At the request of the Governor and officials from the cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls, hospital leadership also continue to meet regularly with other state and local leaders to ensure open dialogue, information sharing, and details on the phased steps that are necessary for hospital closure planning. There is also a review and consideration of community-based primary and specialty care that may continue to be provided in Pawtucket following the hospital closure.

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"We remain committed to our patients, Memorial colleagues, and the community as we continue to adapt to the shifting trends in health care and further our commitments to health care in this region and throughout the state," said James E. Fanale, MD, executive vice president, chief operating officer, and chief clinical officer, Care New England. "Memorial Hospital is losing close to \$2 million dollars each month that it continues to operate as an underutilized, full service hospital. While the decision to close the hospital is difficult, this will help us move the community in the best direction possible to better meet future health care needs and ensure the future viability of the larger health system and needs of the state."

As part of the phased Plan of Closure, the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Memorial Hospital has closed effective today.

The closure of the ICU was determined to be in the best interest of patient care and was coordinated with the Department of Health.

The ICU at Memorial has been averaging one to two patients a day and was not able to admit and care for the most critically ill patients normally cared for in an ICU due to limited availability of specialty physicians. In recent months, such critically ill patients have been appropriately diverted or transferred to other ICUs that were able to better meet their medical needs.

Any patients remaining in the ICU as of today have been provided with care options at other ICUs or step-down facilities including Kent Hospital, a CNE facility, or an appropriate location of the patient's choosing.

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Thank you and have a good week ahead.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Women & Infants hosts Prematurity Summit

This spring, the March of Dimes presented Rhode Island with its Virginia Apgar Prematurity Campaign Leadership Award for our state's dramatic reduction in preterm births. Rhode Island's preterm birth rate fell from 9.6 percent in 2010 to 8.6 percent in 2015, a 10 percent drop. The national preterm birth average for 2015 was 9.6 percent. At that time, we recognized that despite our progress in reducing preterm birth rate, disparities still exist.

The recently-released 2017 March of Dimes report card indicates that the preterm birth rate has risen again to 9.3 percent, primarily due to an increase in preterm birth among disadvantaged groups. Last week, the March of Dimes and the Rhode Island Task Force on Premature Birth joined hosted a summit at Women & Infants that highlighted their statewide projects addressing this issue head-on.

Haywood Brown, MD, president of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), delivered a grand rounds presentation entitled "Challenges in Achieving Equity in Reproductive Health Disparities." Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, also spoke about inequities in health care and strategies to improve health outcomes in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Task Force on Premature Birth, chaired by Katharine Wenstrom, MD, director of Women & Infants' Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, is working closely with the Department of Health on projects that directly or indirectly decrease the risk of preterm birth, including increasing access to 17 OH progesterone, using pre-pregnancy risk assessment to help identify and reduce risks, improving interconception health, and tobacco cessation initiatives.



Pictured from left to right are members of the Rhode Island Task Force on Premature Birth: Dr. Jennifer Hosmer, Dr. Ailis Clyne, Dr. Katharine Wenstrom, Neil Sharpe (March of Dimes), Dr. Haywood Brown (ACOG), Dr. Lisa Littman, Jordana Frost (March of Dimes), and Dr. Maureen Phipps.



Kent and Memorial hospitals receives Department of Health certification for overdose and opioid patient care

The Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) recently instituted a mandate requiring all Rhode Island hospitals to adhere to a rigorous set of regulations regarding the treatment of patients with overdose and opioid use disorders. Since 2016, a Care New England task force has worked diligently to implement a system-wide plan that ensures each facility complies with the associated treatment regulations. Earlier in November, at the Governor's Task Force meeting, Kent and Memorial hospitals were recognized for the significant strides they've made to adhere to the DOH mandates.

During the meeting, Kent Hospital received their DOH Level 1 Provider certification, the highest credential possible, and Memorial Hospital was awarded their DOH Level 2 certification. These certifications showcase the prioritization of expert, patient-centered care that we see across Care New England. On behalf of the patients who will greatly benefit from the training and protocols put into place for those suffering from overdose and opioid related disorders, thank you to the staff who played a role in this achievement.



Left: Hailey Greenwood, MA, QMHP, clinical manager of Behavioral Health Emergency Services, The Providence Center, and Jillian Pastina, RN, QMHP, associate director of Acute Care Services, The Providence Center.

Right: Dr. Peter Graves, MD, physician-in-chief, Kent Hospital Emergency Medicine; Alicia Zuwallack, PharmD, BCPS, ER pharmacist; Brydie Thomasian, MSW, LICSW, manager of Social Services; Jillian Pastina, RN, QMHP, associate director of Acute Care Services, The Providence Center; and Elizabeth Ferland, Emergency Services office coordinator.

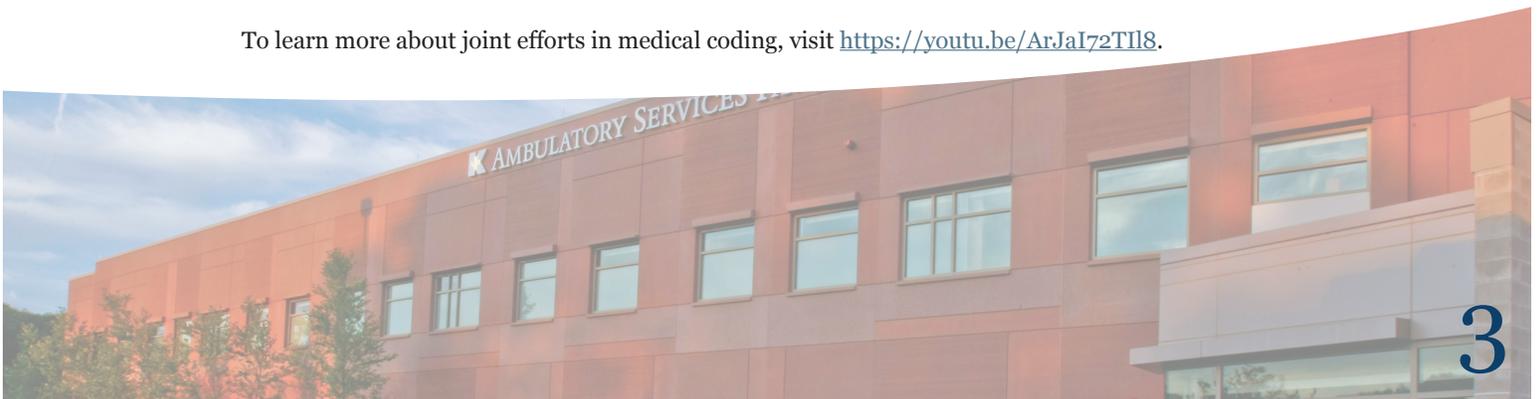
Care New England featured in registered apprenticeship conference

As a regional leader in health care, Care New England has built a partnership with SEIU Healthcare Care New England and SEIU Healthcare 1199NE focusing on overlapping areas of interest to develop the existing workforce. During a time of myriad challenges, both entities are committed to promoting the advancement of staff on a personal, professional, and organizational level. Recent collaborations include working with Apprenticeship Rhode Island to develop innovative approaches to delivering health care within a changing environment of how care is delivered as well as reimbursement processing. From identifying problems to developing solutions, Care New England's innovative approach in working with SEIU Healthcare 1199NE and Apprenticeship Rhode Island is garnering national attention.



All three organizations were recently invited to speak on a panel spotlighting registered apprenticeships at a biannual conference held by the Health Career Advancement Program (H-CAP). Developed as a national labor management organization, H-CAP is committed to identifying best practices in aligning today's workforce to meet the rapidly changing needs of the health care industry. Speaking to the Medical Coding Apprenticeship program currently underway at Women & Infants Hospital were Jody Jencks, director of CNE Workforce Development and senior human resources business partner at Butler Hospital; Amy Weinstein, employer liaison at Apprenticeship Rhode Island; and Patrick Quinn, RI executive vice-president of SEIU Healthcare 1199NE. The program wouldn't be spotlighted if it was not for the expertise and contributions of front line coders like Donna Sprague and Kathy Rickard with the supportive leadership of Renee Vuz and Jen Couri.

To learn more about joint efforts in medical coding, visit <https://youtu.be/ArJaI72TlI8>.



TPC Nurses achieve certifications in Nursing Advancement Program

Last month, The Providence Center registered nurses Kathleen Kristopik and Kristen Lherisson received certifications as part of TPC's Nursing Advancement Program, a four-stage scaled curriculum that recognizes and rewards nurses for professional growth. The program is designed to help nurses advance their practice through leadership incentives and skill development while remaining at TPC.

Kathleen Kristopik from Health Home Team 1D achieved Clinical Nurse IV (Expert Nurse), the highest level of the program. The requirements for this level include involvement in six leadership activities, 24 contact hours of education, completion of a national nursing certification, and more.

Kristen Lherisson from TPC's Home Base program received Clinical Nurse III (Proficient Nurse), which included requirements such as 16 hours of clinical education and involvement in four leadership activities.



Left to right: Kristen Lherisson and Kathleen Kristopik.

Linda Hunter to lead professional society



Congratulations to Linda Hunter, EdD, CNM, FACNM, a certified nurse midwife and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology (clinical) in the Midwifery Program in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants, who has been appointed president-elect of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). She will be appointed president in 2019 and will serve a three-year term.

Hunter joined the Midwifery Program in November 2007, previously working as a registered nurse in the emergency room, labor and delivery, and as a staff educator at Women & Infants from 1982 to 1995. Once completing her graduate education in nurse midwifery at the University of Rhode Island, Hunter worked in private practice in New London, CT. She then joined the faculty of the University of Vermont (UVM), during which time she worked in a hospital-based nurse midwifery practice and held faculty appointments in the College of Medicine and Nursing. Hunter actively participated in the classroom and clinical education of nursing and medical students and received her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from UVM in 2008.

A contributing editor to the Clinical Rounds section of the Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, Hunter is also the current chair of the Certificate Maintenance Committee of the AMCB.

The American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is the national certifying body for candidates in nurse-midwifery and midwifery who have received their graduate level education in programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). Certification by the AMCB is considered the gold standard in midwifery certification and is recognized in all 50 states.

Take part in the Warwick Rotary Turkey Trot

Held on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 23**, the Turkey Trot is a 5k kicking off at 8 a.m. at Warwick City Park. Participants are encouraged to run or walk at your own pace alongside family and friends. This year all proceeds will benefit the Kent Hospital K.E.E.P program, the Warwick Rotary Charity Fund, and the Westbay Marketplace Food Pantry. Prizes will be awarded for best costume and all participants will receive a free commemorative t-shirt.



Visit <https://checkoutri.com/events/warwick-rotary-5k-thanksgiving-turkey-trot-2017/> to learn more. 



Care New England