

MARCH 19, 2018 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 12

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I hope you had a nice weekend free from snow shoveling and perhaps enjoying some March Madness of the basketball variety! Whatever you chose to do for a bit of fun and relaxation, I hope you made it a good one.

Today, I wanted to let you know that we will be launching an exciting new campaign next Monday, March 26, highlighting the Emergency Angioplasty Program at Kent Hospital, also referred to as STEMI (ST Elevated Myocardial Infarction). As you are probably aware Kent Hospital, CNE, and Brigham and Women's cardiovascular team have worked a long time to realize the fulfillment of this lifesaving treatment now available in Warwick.

Often when we talk about heart attacks, we note that time is muscle. Simply put, the quicker you can get treated the better your outcomes are. With this program in place at Kent Hospital it means transport times are shorter, especially for those coming from South County or surrounding communities. No longer is Providence the closest provider of angioplasty. With the launch of this campaign you will see and hear the news on billboards along Routes 95 and 295, RIPTA buses and bus shelters, various radio stations, social media, traditional print ads, and through search engines. It is important for the community and the state to know the level of expertise and care available across CNE and now, with this critically important program, at Kent Hospital.

In order for this program to truly be a success though, I have to acknowledge and express appreciation for the team that makes it work 24/7/365. The care begins in the field with our EMS colleagues. From there our ED team takes over and it's on to our state-of-the-art cath lab and the team of doctors, nurses, techs, and others who stand at the ready. It is a true team effort that is highly orchestrated, highly trained, and highly effective! I hope you get a chance to see some of this campaign in your day-to-day activities. It's a great way to showcase the amazing work taking place across CNE with remarkable results across the region.

Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer



Billboards will appear on Routes 95 and 295 next week.

ConvergenceRI
VIEW THIS WEEK'S EDITION HERE

Women & Infants joins Sen. Whitehouse in calling for action on bipartisan bill to help women, babies struggling with opioid addiction

Women & Infants' leadership and clinical staff joined U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse last week at W&I to support the Senator's efforts to ask Congress to take action on his new bipartisan legislation that would authorize \$160 million for programs that support expectant and new mothers and babies who are struggling with opioid addiction. Rebecca Boss, director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, as well as other health care professionals from around the state, joined Senator Whitehouse for the event.

"Some of the most heartbreaking images I have seen from this public health crisis are of babies who are born suffering from opioid withdrawal. These infants start life from a very difficult place through no fault of their own, and my bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act 2.0 would help them grow up safe and healthy," said Whitehouse. "This legislation also would expand treatment programs for pregnant women and new mothers at a time in their lives when they are more likely to be open to getting help."

Whitehouse co-authored the bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), the sweeping legislation guiding the federal response to the opioid epidemic, which was signed into law in 2016. In recent weeks, Whitehouse introduced CARA 2.0 to implement further policy changes and authorize another \$1 billion to address the public health crisis. Whitehouse's CARA 2.0 legislation would dramatically expand funding authorization for the treatment of pregnant and postpartum women, including at facilities that allow children to reside with their mothers. The funding would also bolster states' efforts to keep newborns exposed to opioids safe and healthy.



"I'd like to express our sincere appreciation to Senators Whitehouse and Portman for their commitment to this very vulnerable population of women and their families," said Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH, chair and Chace-Joukowsky Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and assistant dean for Teaching and Research in Women's Health at the Warren Alpert Medical School, professor of epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health, and chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital and Care New England Health System. "This is a tremendous opportunity for us to make a positive impact on potentially devastating condition. As leaders in the field of pregnancy and postpartum care, it is crucial that clinicians and researchers like those at Women & Infants Hospital have access to resources that will enable us to provide the best, most appropriate care to these moms and babies."

According to the state, the rate of infants in Rhode Island born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, also known as neonatal withdrawal, doubled between 2005 and 2016. In 2016, 336 Rhode Islanders died of accidental drug overdoses, according to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

"Nationwide, every 25 minutes a baby is born with opiate dependence, with 95 out of every 10,000 new babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome," said Adam Czynski, DO, director of the newborn nursery at Women & Infants Hospital. "Treatment and appropriate care for these babies works. Our new model of care on our Family Care Unit is already producing important results that include a decreased length of stay, decreased length of treatment, and decreased number of medication doses needed for these babies. With the support from CARA, we will hopefully be able to grow this important service."

EOHHS Secretary visits Kent's Emergency Department



Last week, Eric Beane, Secretary of Rhode Island's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, visited Kent Hospital's Emergency Department for a closer look at CNE's front line response to the ongoing opioid epidemic. Secretary Beane was at Butler Hospital earlier this year as part of the announcement around the medication-assisted treatment program, and met with clinicians and researchers from Women & Infants several weeks ago to learn more about the efforts regarding the care of babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

In August 2014, Kent's Emergency Department was the first in the state to introduce a naloxone distribution program in which patients or their families can receive a naloxone kit following hands-on training and watching a brief video. This process has been extended hospital-wide since that time. Treatment at Kent's ED may involve treating patients who arrive after an overdose, engaging patients who present with a desire to seek help with opioid dependency, or who are seen for other medical problems and reveal a history of opioid misuse.

To improve upon the process for patients seeking help with opioid dependency and withdrawal symptoms, the Kent ED also developed a process to initiate medication-assisted treatment in cooperation with Butler Hospital and The Providence Center. Patients withdrawing from opioids can present to the Kent ED and receive buprenorphine, which ameliorates their withdrawal symptoms until a same- or next-day intake appointment for ongoing treatment can be arranged at Butler Hospital. In November 2017, the RI DOH recognized Kent Hospital as achieving level 1 status in response to this initiative. As part of Care New England's Center of Excellence for patients with substance use disorder, The Providence Center is present 24 hours daily in the Kent ED, and many patients are referred for appropriate follow-up care based on their particular needs.

Secretary Beane was joined by State Representative Patricia Serpa, Dr. James Fanale, president and CEO of Care New England, and Dr. Peter Graves, chief of Emergency Medicine at Kent, as well as Alicia Zuwallack, ED pharmacist, and Brydie Thomasian from Kent social services.

WOMEN & INFANTS

Lisa Williams, RN, MSN, CPAN, named surgical services/critical care educator

Lisa Williams, RN, MSN, CPAN, has been named surgical services/critical care educator for Women & Infants. Lisa has previously worked as nurse manager of surgical services at Women & Infants, director of perianesthesia services at Columbus Regional Medical Center in Georgia, and in a number of staff roles in surgical and intensive care settings.



A graduate of Georgia Southwestern College, Lisa earned a bachelor of science in nursing and a master of science in nursing from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. She is now enrolled in the online graduate certificate in Health Care Compliance Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Lisa brings her clinical expertise, leadership skills, and passion for education to this new role. 