committed to nursing excellence

2013 NURSING ANNUAL REPORT
Nursing Mission
To provide quality, compassionate nursing care based upon mutual respect for our patients, their families and each other.

Nursing Vision
To empower nursing staff to practice innovatively, influence exceptional clinical outcomes, learn continuously and to create an environment where nurses choose to work and patients want to receive care.
Welcome

TO THE SOUTH NASSAU 2013 NURSING ANNUAL REPORT

It has truly been an amazing year of growth and, looking back, I am so proud of the accomplishments of our individual staff nurses, unit-based councils, shared governance councils and leadership team. Nursing’s major accomplishments and successes stem from meeting our 2013 goals.

- Our BSN rate continues to rise; it’s now at 58%. Our certification rate rose to 29%. Both of these indicators contribute to excellent patient care.

- Patient outcomes for acquired pressure ulcers, falls and restraints outperformed the national mean for the majority of the quarters in 2013; a result of the outstanding level of care our patients receive.

In addition to these achievements, we have a very active Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council implementing new research studies, a nursing fellowship program and an online journal club for nursing research. Over 500 nursing students completed their clinical training at South Nassau this past year. And, we concluded our year with a visit from the ANCC Office for Magnet Recognition. Thank you to all our Magnet Champions and Ambassadors, and our Magnet Steering Committee, under the leadership of Eileen Mahler and Maryliz Simmons, for a great visit. It has been a great journey toward Magnet due to your efforts.

Wishing each of you the best in 2014!

Sue Penque, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, NE-BC
Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer, Patient Care Services

Transformational Leadership page 4
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Exemplary Professional Practice page 12
New Knowledge, Innovation and Improvement page 16
At South Nassau, we know that visionary nursing leadership is essential to achieving optimal patient care. Our nurses are central to the relationships and interactions between patients, physicians, hospital administrators and the community. As such, they are uniquely qualified to seek out and implement new programs, techniques and protocols that improve the delivery of care. Transformations that enhance patient care, on a small and large scale, happen every day at South Nassau, thanks to the initiative and leadership of our exceptional nursing team.

Nurse Leader Spearheads Effort To Introduce Therapeutic Hypothermia For Cardiac Arrest Patients

South Nassau nurse administrator Peter L. Fromm, MPH, RN, FAHA, FACHE, service line administrator, Center for Cardiovascular Health, was instrumental in leading the implementation of the American Heart Association’s Class 1 recommendation for the process of induced therapeutic hypothermia for patients. Under Peter’s leadership, a team of multidisciplinary clinical leaders and stakeholders was convened to provide input, review the data and literature and to make recommendations. This review found that patients whose body temperature is therapeutically decreased following the return of spontaneous circulation after cardiac arrest have better neurological outcomes than those patients who are not cooled. As a result, the purchase of the Arctic Sun hypothermia machine was approved and our patients began benefiting immediately.
Clinical Advancement Program Implemented

Under the leadership of Karine Austin, MSN, RN, CBN, NEA-BC, director of nursing, and Donna Pandolfi, BSN, RN, CHCR, director, human resources, the Clinical Advancement Program (CAP) was developed and incorporated into the patient care services strategic plan. CAP enhances the nursing environment at South Nassau by recognizing and rewarding RNs for their commitment to South Nassau and to the community while also supporting their growth and development as professionals.

Team Strategies And Tools To Enhance Performance And Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS)

TeamSTEPPS, a strategic initiative for quality and patient safety, focuses on specific skills and strategies to improve collaboration, communication and teamwork within our organization. Nurse leaders Joanne Newcombe, BSN, MPA, RN, NE-BC, vice president, patient care services, and Nancy Adler, BSN, RN, nursing professional development educator, have been instrumental in embedding these strategies throughout the hospital with a vision of creating the ultimate culture of safety at South Nassau. Both nurses, along with their multidisciplinary team of 25 Master Trainers, have provided education for over 800 staff members from various hospital departments.

Senior Nurse Practitioner Leading The Way

Margaret (Peg) O’Donnell, MS, RN, FNP, ANP-BC, senior nurse practitioner, was nominated for a fellowship in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She was sponsored by two academy fellows to join this elite group.

As the senior nurse practitioner, Peg promotes interactive relationships among the multidisciplinary team of health care providers. In order to identify what would most benefit nurse practitioners, Peg solicited feedback from her colleagues regarding their professional views, concerns and issues and then used this feedback to organize the Advanced Practice Nurses Innovative Care Committee, a group member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. This committee engages in peer review, case presentations, newsletters, strategic planning and coordinating efforts between inpatient and outpatient services.
South Nassau Nurses Recognized For Excellence

- **Dr. Penque**, chief nursing officer, was selected for the national editorial board for American Organization of Nurse Executives publications.

- **Gina Kearney, PhD(c), RN-BC, AHN-BC**, director, community education, reached Doctoral Candidacy for her PhD in Nursing from Molloy College and successfully defended her proposal for dissertation.

- **Margaret Hempstead, BSN, RN, VA-BC**, nurse manager, IV Team, was named “Nurse Hero” and honored by Long Island Business News with a “Health Care Heroes” award for her exceptional dedication, commitment, and contributions to the quality of health care on Long Island. Margaret was also selected by Tangent Medical as a national finalist for the 2013 Nurses’ Choice Award for demonstrating excellence in improving patient comfort, satisfaction, safety and overall quality of patient care.

- **Fran Stevens, RN, CEN**, assistant nurse manager, emergency department, was recognized with Honorable Mention for the Nassau County Regional EMS Council’s “Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence” award.

- **Lynn Bert, BSN, RN, NE-BC, AE-C**, nurse manager, pediatrics, received the Town of Hempstead 2013 Pathfinder Award and was recognized for her contributions to health services by Town Supervisor Kate Murray.

- The following nurse leaders were nominated for a GEM award, Nurse.com’s prestigious annual nursing excellence award, which honors superior nurses across the country:
  - **Lynn Bert, BSN, RN, NE-BC, AE-C**, nurse manager, pediatrics
  - **Lori Edelman, MS, RN, CEN, NE-BC**, director, emergency services
  - **Margaret Hempstead, BSN, RN, VA-BC**, nurse manager, IV team
  - **Maureen McGovern, BS, RN**, patient safety officer
  - **Kate Zummo, MS, RN, CEN**, nursing professional development specialist.
Councils are the foundation for nursing at South Nassau. They facilitate collaborative practice and shared vision, allowing interdisciplinary teams to come together to create and implement actions that move us forward, bringing us closer to achieving our nursing vision: “To empower nursing staff to practice innovatively, influence exceptional patient outcomes, learn continuously and create an environment where nurses choose to work and patients want to receive care.” Through the council structure at South Nassau, decision-making is shared, professional practice is enhanced and outcomes are improved.

New Councils In 2013

**Holistic Nursing Council**
Cultivating the spirit of nursing and enhancing our professional practice model were the driving forces behind the development of our Holistic Nursing Council. The council’s goals are to:
- Enhance our healing environment
- Educate and support our bedside nurses in nurturing self care
- Promote the bedside nurse as a role model for healthy living

**Informatics Council**
This interdisciplinary shared governance committee of staff nurses, electronic medical record (EMR) team members (nurse informaticists, physicians and pharmacists), nurse educators, nursing directors and risk managers, standardize the EMR documentation process, review EMR changes and address issues and questions identified by end users of the EMR.

Unit-Based Councils’ Achievements

Unit-based councils are a forum to improve patient care and enhance processes on a unit level. Some of the projects of the councils were:
- Frontline Supportive Staff Practice Council amended the bedside rounding form to include accounting for the location of a patient’s hearing aids, glasses and dentures
- E2 expanded their unit-based model of care based on Dorothy Orem’s Self-Care Theory
- Perioperative Council instituted the use of the bladder scanner to minimize delays in patient discharge that are due to issues with voiding
**Nursing Practice And Quality Council**

- Implemented RN Peer Review Forum
- Made recommendation for formation of Informatics Council
- Conducted evaluation of Professional Practice Model
- Developed Nursing Care Model guidelines (Modified Primary Nursing)

**Nursing Education And Professional Development Council**

- Revised multiple policies related to Orientation/Preceptor Program
- Hosted Certified Nurses’ Day, March 19, 2013
- Expanded the offerings for patient education in the electronic medical record
- Created unit-specific binders for float nurses

**Advancing Professional Practice**

The following professional organizations held meetings at South Nassau in 2013:

- Association for Vascular Access, Long Island Chapter
- Greater New York-Nassau-Suffolk Organization of Nurse Executives with featured speaker Alan Cooper, chief people and performance officer at White Plains Hospital, discussing “Proven Strategies for Enhancing the Patient Experience and Increasing your HCAHPS Scores” while developing a “patient centered patient experience” culture

Hosting these meetings gives our nurses access to experts who introduce new techniques and therapies for improving practice and enhancing professional outcomes.

**Precepting Student Nurses**

South Nassau is known for its ability to effectively precept students. In 2013, we welcomed over 500 nursing students for their clinical practicums. The students represented 13 schools and were from undergraduate, undergraduate capstone and graduate (Masters, Nurse Practitioner and Doctoral DNP) programs.
Healing Our Community Through Service

- South Nassau nurses, and other staff members, volunteered during the holiday season at the Mary Brennan INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) soup kitchen, sorting and packaging food for distribution and serving hot meals to guests.
- Lorraine Halliburton, RN, assistant nurse manager, ASU Pre-op, was featured on the cover of Advance for Nurses along with an article describing her advocacy for breast cancer survivors.
- Nursing staff from Community Education, D2E and D2W provided health education to teach individuals about stroke awareness/prevention and conducted blood pressure screenings.
- Gina Kearney, PhD (c), RN-BC, AHN-BC, director of community education, was a co-presenter of “Who’s the Boss: Parenting Children in the Digital Age,” at the Oceanside Middle School parent meeting.
- Lantern volunteers continued to assist the staff of Community Education by attending health fairs and screenings.
- Nurses from our Endoscopy Unit volunteered at the Convoy of Hope outreach to help Nassau County’s underserved families.

RN Residency Program Expanded

Thirteen new RN graduates entered our expanded residency program, which now includes Critical Care and Telemetry in addition to the Emergency Department. The residents are a cohort that comes together each month for an educational session that includes didactic presentations, simulation experiences, peer support, and a discussion group, “Tales from the Bedside.” They also have the opportunity to work with clinical experts (such as Rapid Response Team and Admissions Nurses) and to rotate to various units to develop a global perspective of nursing at South Nassau.
National Nurses Recognition Week

Each and every day, South Nassau nurses make a positive difference in the lives of many. We are committed to recognizing our nurses for their unconditional commitment and dedication, outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the nursing profession and patient care.

Excellence In Nursing

The following nurses were honored during our Nurses Week programs:

- The South Nassau candidate for the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse of Excellence was Barbara Guy, MSN, RN-BC, director, electronic medical record, who was honored for her patient care advocacy in ensuring that electronic systems support nurses in caring through technology.

- Deidre Kuster, BSN, RN, long term care coordinator, was recognized by Nurse.com as a 2013 Nursing Excellence GEM award finalist for demonstrating excellence in the nursing profession and for her volunteer work in the community.

- Deidre Kuster, flanked by Dr. Sue Penque and Joanne Newcombe, along with a team of South Nassau nurse leaders at the GEM awards ceremony.
South Nassau Communities Hospital
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Journey To Excellence

The Journey To Excellence honor is awarded quarterly to a South Nassau unit team that makes a significant impact on improving patient satisfaction.

The D3 team, first quarter Journey To Excellence award winners, attained up to the 99th percentile on most of their patient satisfaction survey questions.

The E2/Total Joint Unit team was honored in the 2nd quarter for showing the most improvement in that quarter.

Nursing Scholarships

South Nassau medical staff funded four scholarship awards:

- Excellence in Nursing Education: Kathleen Kellar, MSN, RN, CEN
- Excellence in Nursing Leadership: Eileen Giangrasso, BSN, RN
- Excellence in Nursing Practice: Kerry Katz, BSN, RN
- Excellence in Community Service: Margaret Hempstead, BSN, RN, VA-BC

Nursing Awards

- Excellence in Nursing Research: Jacki Rosen, MSN, RN, PMHCNS, BC
- Excellence as a Novice Nurse: Rachel Sarosy, RN
- Excellence as a Novice Nurse: Tliu Thyophilose, RN
- Nursing Assistant of Distinction: Julieta Alfaro
- Outstanding Unit Clerk: Robert Dean
Our Professional Practice Model is firmly in place and it guides the hands and heart of every nurse who delivers care at South Nassau. In order to achieve a culture of safety, quality and continuous improvement, our nurses have ready access to clinical and organizational resources and learning opportunities. They are autonomous practitioners, interdisciplinary team members, teachers and students. This combination of roles and responsibilities allows us to maintain an environment that encourages research, collaboration, communication and the implementation of evidence-based practice.

As part of our Professional Practice Model, we also adopted a motto, “Soaring to New Challenges and Heights.” Whenever we think of South Nassau Communities Hospital, we can easily remember our guiding principle and allow it to direct our efforts to achieve exemplary professional practice.
Exemplary Professional Practice

Magnet Champions Lead the Journey
South Nassau’s Magnet Journey to Excellence is led by our Magnet Champions. They are committed to Magnet principles and ideals and they are creative and diligent in promoting the Magnet environment. These 80 nurses frame a culture of nursing excellence by promoting education and activities to foster staff engagement.

Magnet Site Visit
On November 18th, Magnet Appraisers from the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center visited South Nassau for a three-day site visit. They were welcomed with enthusiasm, cheers and banners flying high, featuring our professional practice model and over 1,000 staff signatures, all of which exemplified our South Nassau team spirit. The appraisers were impressed with our energy and enthusiasm, and the caring nature for which our nurses are known. During the survey, the appraisers enjoyed breakfast and lunch with our staff nurses, met with key committees (Ethics, Advanced Practice, and Service Excellence), met with physician and community leaders and visited patient care units on and off-site.

The Magnet site visit was an inspiring experience, showcasing the commitment and excellence of our staff. This journey has confirmed what we already know, that South Nassau has strong leadership and dedicated, empowered nurses practicing in an innovative environment and delivering superior patient outcomes.
Katie Sobey, BSN, RN, CEN, staff nurse, emergency department, was recognized by the MedicAlert Foundation with the Extraordinary Meritorious Service award for her rapid response to a MedicAlert patient during Superstorm Sandy.

Kerry Katz, on the left, received the Long Island Health Network Shining Star Award for demonstrating excellence in nursing practice and consistently seeking out innovative methods to care for her patients.

Ricardo Trejo, psychiatric assistant, D4 behavioral health, was honored as South Nassau’s employee of the second quarter. Mr. Trejo was recognized for his outstanding nursing care and his excellent customer service skills.

Bridget Nolan, RN, staff nurse on E2, was recognized as South Nassau’s employee of the third quarter. Ms. Nolan was honored for her exemplary work as well as her dedication to our patients, our organization and her profession.

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<th>INDICATOR (RATE)</th>
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<tr>
<td>FALLS</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SNCH Results</td>
<td>NDNQI Benchmark</td>
<td>SNCH Results</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>3.35</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SNCH Falls /1,000 Patient Care Days</td>
<td>NDNQI National Comparison Mean: Bed size 300-399</td>
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<tr>
<td>RERAINTS</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>6.41</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SNCH % Patients surveyed with restraints</td>
<td>NDNQI National Comparison Mean: Bed size 300-399</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOSPITAL ACQUIRED PRESSURE ULCERS</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.24</td>
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<td>SNCH % Patients Surveyed/HAPU</td>
<td>NDNQI National Comparison Mean: Bed size 300-399</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLABSI combined ICU and CCU</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SNCH CLABSI / 1,000 Central Line Days</td>
<td>NDNQI National Comparison Mean: Bed size 300-399</td>
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Awards, Accreditations and Recognitions

- Home Care Elite™ Top 500 listing of the best home health care providers in the nation, South Nassau Home Care (eighth consecutive year)
- National Cardiovascular Data Registry ACTION Registry: Get With the Guidelines 2013 Silver Performance Achievement Award, Acute MI
- Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Vascular Labs (ICAVL) for Carotid, Arterial, and Venous studies
- Joint Commission: Disease-Specific Care Certification for Heart Failure
- Joint Commission: “Top Performer on Key Quality Measures” 2012
- National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, June 2013, full 3-year accreditation (American College of Surgeons)
- American Heart Association “Mission Lifeline” Bronze Award for STEMI patients, 2013
- Aetna Institute of Quality for Interventional Cardiology and for Electrophysiology
- Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Echocardiography Labs (ICAEL) certification for Transthoracic, Transesophageal, and Stress Echocardiography
- American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement award, South Nassau’s Gertrude & Louis Fell Cancer Center
- American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses “Excellence in Professionalism Award” given to South Nassau’s Endoscopy Unit for excellence in the field and commitment to the professional growth of its nursing staff

Exemplary Professional Practice

Home Care Department Featured in Cover Story

South Nassau’s Home Care Department was featured as the cover story in the February 11, 2013 issue of Advance for Nurses. The story was titled, “First-Class Home Care — Compassionate Nurses Distinguish Care at South Nassau Home Care.”

Home Care HH-CAHPS Patient Satisfaction Survey Results

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<th>INDICATOR (RATE)</th>
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<th>OVERALL MEAN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Courtesy/respect of nurses</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>87.4</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>85.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of patients who answered “Always”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain well controlled</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>67.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of patients who answered “Always”</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clear communication by nurses</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>75.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of patients who answered “Always”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of new medicines</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>77.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of patients who answered “Always”</td>
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HH-CAHPS (Home Health Care Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) is a federal mandate regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requiring Home Health Agencies to collect standardized patient satisfaction data. The vendor that administers the data for the South Nassau Home Care Service is OCS Home Care.
Research, innovation and evidence-based quality improvement are integral to nursing practice at South Nassau. The hospital dedicates resources to ensure that nurses are supported in their quest for knowledge. Standards are continually evaluated and new best practices are adopted when research provides evidence of enhanced patient outcomes. Our nurses never stop learning, growing and improving their practice and the nursing profession.

Virtual Nursing Journal Club Launched

Members of the Nursing Research/Evidence-Based Practice Council launched the Virtual Nursing Journal Club (VNJC), an online interactive forum where South Nassau nurses can read a current nursing research journal article and share their thoughts about it online with other South Nassau nurses. The VNJC helps our nurses to:

- Keep abreast of current research findings
- Critically evaluate nursing research studies
- Promote an evidence-based practice environment by translating new research knowledge into practice
- Strengthen collegial relationships within South Nassau
New Knowledge, Innovation and Improvements

Poster Presentations

Debbie Jonason, BSN, RN, CCRN, and Kathleen Sodora, BSN, RN, “Door to Balloon Time In Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention,” Long Island Health Network Annual Conference

Margaret (Peg) O’Donnell, MS, RN, FNP, ANP-MS, RN, BC and Sharon M. Sussman, EdD, RN, “Resistance to Adult Immunizations,” The Nurse Practitioner Association Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY

The following posters were presented at the Ninth Annual Nursing Leadership and Research Conference sponsored by Adelphi University’s School of Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International, Alpha Omega Chapter, in April 2013:

Lynn Bert, BSN, RN, NE-BC, AE-C, “Project HELP Initiative”

Laurel Book, BSN, RN, “Attitudes and Beliefs of Perinatal Staff Nurses Regarding Implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative at South Nassau Communities Hospital”


Katherine Savarese, MSN, RN and Nydia White, BSN, RN, CCRN, “Nurses in Critical Care Units Taking Grief Support Into Their Own Hands”

Clinical Nurse Specialists Invited To Present Their Research At Multiple Venues

Patricia Mulvaney-Roth, MSN, RN, PMHCNS-BC and Jacki Rosen, MSN, RN, PMHCNS-BC, presented, “Creating a Therapeutic Alliance and Improved Outcomes in the Patient Experiencing Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome in a General Hospital Setting by Empowering Nurses to Intervene with a Nurse-Driven, Evidenced-Based Assessment Tool” as a podium presentation at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association 2013 Chapter Conference, Allentown, PA and as a poster presentation at Adelphi’s Ninth Annual Nursing Leadership and Research Conference and the Molloy College Third Annual Doctoral Forum Research Lecture.

Gina Kearney and Dr. Sue Penque presenting their poster at the Molloy College Doctoral Nursing Forum

Peg O’Donnell at the Nassau Suffolk Health Commissioners Meeting
Improving Patient Satisfaction in Outpatient Dialysis

The leadership team and the staff of the Outpatient Dialysis Center reviewed the results of the 2012 initial patient satisfaction survey and identified a need for improvement. An action plan was developed and implemented which included:

- Re-education of the center’s staff on listening and communication
- Chair side charting utilizing improved Fresenius dialysis machines with screens that convert into computer monitors, thus improving the patient’s perception of care as the staff is able to spend more time with them

As a result of these changes, the 2013 patient satisfaction survey showed significant improvements.

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<tr>
<th>INDICATOR (RATE)</th>
<th>2013 SNCH Results</th>
<th>2013 National Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>CENTER RATING  OVERALL</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>CENTER STAFF RATING</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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The patient satisfaction survey asks a random sample of recent patients about important aspects of their outpatient hospital experience. This telephonic survey is administered by HealthStream Research, one of the many vendors that hospitals can choose to administer patient satisfaction surveys.

Onsite Certification Review Courses

Nurse education has an effect on the quality of patient care. In support of our nurses and their commitment to improving and enhancing their clinical knowledge and skills, South Nassau held two review courses to prepare our staff for certification exams:

- Certified Emergency Nurse, taught by expert consultant Dr. Laura Gasparis Vonfrorio
- ANCC Gerontology Review course, Patricia Tabloski, instructor

Short Stay Unit Opens For Selected Patients

The South Nassau cardiology team developed an innovative approach to managing patients with heart failure and other selected cardiac diagnoses. Cardiology nurse practitioners now collaborate with cardiology attending physicians and Emergency Department physicians to identify and treat patients who meet designated criteria. These patients are monitored on the E1 unit by our staff RNs and they are expedited through the system instead of spending a full day in the hospital waiting for tests. Over 500 patients have utilized this program since its initiation in February 2013.

Abstract Submitted

“HeartBeat the Clock,” a best practice abstract, was submitted to the NY Organization of Nurse Executives for their 2014 conference with the theme “Transforming Health Care: Nursing at the Crossroads.” The abstract discussed South Nassau’s achievement of optimal door-to-balloon times.
Continuing Education/Advanced Degrees

- **58%** of South Nassau’s RNs hold BSN degrees as compared with 41% statewide and 46% in Nassau/Suffolk (HANYS 2013 Nursing and Allied Health Care Professionals Workforce Survey Report).

- **29%** of our nurses have attained professional certification in their field.

Patient Care Services currently has:

- 59 RNs enrolled in BSN programs
- 33 RNs enrolled in MSN programs
- 6 RNs in Nurse practitioner programs
- 4 RNs pursuing a doctoral degree
- 30 RNs who received academic degrees in 2013

South Nassau Nurses Collaborate To Achieve Positive Ostomy Patient Outcomes

A team of nurses from multiple South Nassau patient care settings joined forces with our wound/ostomy clinical nurse specialist Pamela Reilly, MSN, RN, CWOCN, to provide seamless care and to find workable solutions to the complex problems encountered by patients with urinary or fecal ostomies. Interventions included:

- Incorporation of the standards of care as defined by the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Society
- Pre-operative teaching and stoma site marking by certified ostomy nurses at the hospital and the cancer center
- Bi-directional (pre-operative and post-operative) communication between hospital nurses, the Cancer Center and the Home Care Department

Fellowship Program Continues To Support Nursing Research

Five RNs completed the South Nassau Nursing Research Fellowship Program in May 2013. These research fellows participated in a 16-month program that afforded them dedicated release time to conduct nursing research studies. The fellows are currently continuing their work outside the program.

The following September, four nurses were selected for the next cohort of the Nursing Research Fellowship Program, which began in January 2014. Based on feedback from the inaugural program, the fellowship was increased to 18 months and each new fellow was paired with a former fellow to provide an additional source of support.

The 2014 Nursing Research Fellows are:

- Dena Alberti, BSN, RN-BC
- Irene Ficaro, BSN, RN, CGRN
- Liz Bachoo-Garib, BSN, RN, OCN
- Janice Campbell, MSN, RN

Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council