

WHAT'S UP?

FMC PHYSICIAN NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2011



**Flagstaff
Medical Center**

Northern Arizona Healthcare

Celebrating our Nurse of the Year finalists

Each year, March of Dimes honors Arizona nurses as Nurse of the Year in 14 different categories. FMC had four nurses honored as finalists at the eighth annual Nurse of the Year Awards Gala in Phoenix last month. Please join us in congratulating them for all they do.

Lynn Harris, R.N., Obstetrics — Advocacy for Patients

Over a year ago, Lynn lost her newborn daughter as a result of congenital birth defects. She turned her personal tragedy into something that positively touches the lives of others when she developed the Perinatal Palliative Care Program. The program offers support and education to those diagnosed with life-limiting fetal conditions.

Casey Hughes, R.N., CCU — Innovation/Creativity

Casey started a family bereavement program in the Critical Care Unit. She used her own time, money and space at home to sustain this program in its first year. Cards, booklets and phone calls were given to families. From this, the To Lose a Child program also began. This program deals with the loss of a pregnancy and perinatal loss.

Casey travels to other units in the hospital to help them begin their own programs.

Jennifer Killeen, R.N., Flight Nurse Clinical Manager, Guardian Air Transport — Clinical Education

Jennifer designed a comprehensive orientation program for new flight nurses and flight paramedics. She has facilitated ongoing education and training for crew members. She works to identify opportunities for improvement through the Quality Assurance Program.

Jennifer also provides education to small rural hospitals and EMS agencies in Northern Arizona.

Deborah Shepherd, N.P., Trauma — Advancing the Practice/Research

Deborah elevated Trauma Services to a new level of excellence. She has collaborated on a nursing education module, has been a resource for nursing staff, and has advocated for changes in the neurosurgical guidelines of practice. Deb helped begin the Screening and Treatment for Addiction

Related to Trauma (START) program, which has shown a 40-percent reduction in repeat trauma.

She partnered with Infection Control to reduce Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections. She helped develop the CAUTI protocol and provide education. This has reduced FMC CAUTI rates by almost 50 percent.



From left to right, FMC Nurse of the Year finalists Casey Hughes, Lynn Harris, Deborah Shepherd and Jennifer Killeen

2011 Annual Provider Picnic — A great time on Sept. 17!



Physician shadows R.N.

Recently, FMC Hospitalist Rachel Lee, M.D., spent time shadowing Jennifer Volenstine, R.N., 2-E/Short Stay Unit.

Rachel found the experience fun and invaluable.

“Jen is an amazing nurse, teacher and mentor. A patient we were taking care of today had to be transferred to a different floor because of his isolation requirements. He actually cried because he didn’t want to leave us! As Jen says, ‘That’s some good nursing.’”

Rachel said she found the experience satisfying on several levels and it gave her new appreciation for the job nurses do.

“I definitely could not do what Jen does everyday. I would be too afraid to make a mistake. When I do my job, there are 10 people checking to make sure I actually meant to order what I’m ordering,” Rachel said. “When Jen does hers, she is the last of the line, the one giving it. I’m OCD, I would spend so much time checking and double checking the med and the patient and the order, they would probably never get their medication. I now understand

some of the frequent phone calls to question certain medications.”

Heart surgery gets positive ranking

HVCNA cardiothoracic surgeon Steve Peterson, M.D., recently was ranked positively by *Consumer Reports Health*.

Heart surgery groups nationwide were ranked based on quality data reported

by the physicians. Four facilities in Arizona were listed by *Consumer Reports*, including HVCNA, two facilities in Scottsdale and one in Yuma. *Consumer Reports* said the four Arizona programs were ranked as two-star performers in a three-star rating program, meaning they are all solid performers.



Cardiology conference for primary care set for Oct. 8

The Heart & Vascular Center of Northern Arizona (HVCNA)

physicians will offer a cardiology conference for primary providers on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the High Country Conference Center at NAU.

Topics will include lectures on new approaches to managing AF and PAD; CHF information for PCPs; interpreting lipid profiles; and minimally invasive CABG surgery.

For more information or to register, call Suzanne Tackitt, FMC librarian, at 214-3579.

FMC receives Level I Trauma designation again

Following a detailed and extensive survey by the American College of Surgeons, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has granted FMC another three-year designation as a Level I Trauma Center.

FMC, which has been a state-designated Trauma Center since November 2005, is the only Level I Trauma Center in Northern Arizona and one of eight in the state. Level I is the highest trauma center designation granted by ADHS.