

Rapid Response Team added at WRMC

July, 2007 - Batesville, Ark. – White River Medical Center (WRMC) has implemented a Rapid Response Team (RRT) available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to support the nursing staff in the event of a sudden change in patient status and improve patient outcomes.

Any staff member concerned about the patient, a family member or the patient himself or herself can activate the RRT. The Team is led by an ICU nurse and may include a Respiratory Therapist and/or an Advance Practice Nurse (APN). A RRT call usually comes from the nurses on the medical surgical units based on symptoms they observe, for example: a sudden change in the patient's heart rate, or respiratory rate, bleeding, or other concerns about changes in the patient's condition.

“We feel that the RRT will play a role in preventing cardiac and respiratory arrests outside the ICU and improving our patient's health and safety.” said Dede Strecker, Chief Nursing Officer.

The RRT encourages collaboration between critical care nurses and general medical nurses in the care of patients, through assessment, communication and education. The RRT is a tool to help colleagues support one another and work together as a team.

The development and implementation of the RRT is a part of WRMC's participation with the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) 5 Million Lives Campaign and to WRMC's commitment to providing safe and quality healthcare. The RRT is an IHI nursing best practice, and one of the tools available to hospitals participating in the campaign.

White River Health System is committed to the continued professional development of the nursing staff. We are proud of the nurses who have earned advanced certifications in specialized areas of nursing. There are 7 CMSRN (Certified Medical/Surgical Registered Nurse) certified nurses in the state of Arkansas, three of those work at WRMC, Mindy Doyle, RN; Whitney Scribner, RN; Melanie Creighton, RN. Other nurses with specialty certificates include; Paige Smith, RN, CPN (Certified Pediatric Nurse); Rebecca Brosius, RN, CRRN (Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse); Ronda Gaither, RN, CCRN, (Critical Care Registered Nurse), CMC (Cardiovascular Medicine Certification); Sandy Foster, RN, CNOR (Certified Nurse Operating Room); Michelle Franks, RN, CNOR; Stephanie McComas, RN, CNOR; Tally Scott, RN, CNOR; Judy Breckenridge, RN, CNOR; Diane Lyons, RN, CPAN (Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse); Janice Benton, RN, CCRN; Janie Evans, RN, CCRN; Brandi Fleetwood, RN, CCRN; Leanne James, RN, CCRN; Jamie Nguyen, RN, CCRN; Ellen Qualls, RN, CCRN; Jenny Serberth, RN, CCRN; Yolanda Staggs, RN, CCRN, PCCN (Progressive Critical Care Nursing); Kim McCorkle, RN, CCRN; Michelle Lasiter, RN, CCRN.

The Institute of Healthcare Improvement is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of healthcare. The IHI was founded in 1991 and is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

WRMC is a 200-bed regional referral center and the flagship facility of White River Health System (WRHS). WRHS is a not-for-profit healthcare system serving residents throughout North

Central Arkansas. The system includes hospitals, outpatient facilities, primary care and specialty physician office practices, home health and hospice care, long-term care facilities and a medical equipment company. White River Health System is a member of the Premier Alliance, the American Hospital Association, and the Arkansas Hospital Association and licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health.