

March 7, 2011

Catch A Falling Star Kicks off Patient Safety Week

March 7 marks the beginning of Patient Safety Awareness Week, an annual education and awareness campaign for healthcare safety sponsored by the National Patient Safety Foundation. This year, Montefiore will recognize Patient Safety Awareness Week by launching the “Catch a Falling Star” campaign to prevent falls in the hospital.

The goal of the program is to proactively identify patients who have been assessed to be at risk for falls so that all staff and family members will know the patient is at risk. The program adds to ongoing efforts to improve patient safety and reduce falls. For example, nursing staff at Moses and Weiler are now documenting their fall risk assessment and reassessment in the Carecast system, while the nurses at North Division have mirrored the Carecast documentation in a falls flow sheet. These changes were implemented to ensure consistent documentation of patients who are at risk for falls.

“Patient safety is our top priority at Montefiore,” says Jason Adelman, MD, Patient Safety Officer. “Each year, millions of people are injured by falls. Patients recovering from illness or injury are at an increased risk of falling, especially when in an unfamiliar environment. By reducing risks within our system, we can maintain a safe environment and prevent patients from falling while under our care.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people age 65 and older.
- One of every three adults age 65 or older falls each year.
- Ten percent of patients age 65 and older fall in a healthcare institution.

“To better meet our goals in this area, a fall prevention kit will soon be available on

all inpatient adult units,” said Maureen Vachna, RN, Director of Nursing/ Nursing Patient Safety and Chair of the Falls Prevention Committee. The kit will include a yellow alert wristband, yellow non-skid socks, a falling star for the patient’s door, a falling star sticker for the patient’s chart and an educational handout for patients and families. These tools will be used understand how they can decrease their chances of falling while in the hospital. Dr. Adelman notes that as part of the “Catch a Falling Star” program, all staff will be educated on the use of the fall prevention kit to ensure awareness of the need to monitor and assist patients at risk of falling.

A Patient Safety Presentation

**Preventing Falls in the Inpatient Setting:
A Case Review and Root Cause Analysis
Monday, March 7 | 4:00–5:30 pm
Cherkasky Auditorium**

For more information about this event, call 718-920-4283 or email patientsafety@montefiore.org.

Using iPads for Learning and Play at CHAM

To reduce her anxiety when nurses attempted to draw her blood during a recent stay at The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), 15-year-old Jawced Rodrigues played the piano using an iPad application called “Magic Piano.” The tablet computer was one of four recently donated by individuals and foundations to the Child Life Program at CHAM.

“Our staff use the iPads at the patients’ bedside to distract them from anything that’s causing them discomfort, as a means of creative expression, or to teach them about their illnesses and medical procedures,” said Meghan D. Kelly, MSED, CCLS, Director of the Child Life Program and the Carl Sagan Discovery Program at CHAM. “Patients find the iPads very engaging.”

The use of iPads in the children’s hospital setting is becoming more common across the country, Kelly noted. Currently at CHAM, the iPads

(continued...)



Adam Staub, a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist in the Child Life Program (left), explores music applications on the iPad with Jawced Rodrigues, a patient at CHAM.

(continued from page 1)

are used among patients ages preschool to young adults, including those who have special needs, epilepsy or are being treated for renal disease, asthma, hematological-oncological conditions, such as sickle cell disease, leukemia, lymphoma and many other conditions.

The team of certified child life specialists and licensed creative arts therapists downloaded applications that allow patients to draw, make spirograph-like patterns by moving their finger across the screen, create beats using virtual bongos, or produce a relaxing soundscape by combining different sound effects. "Many of these applications are fun for kids of any age or ability level," said Kelly. She noted that even if a

child is unable to hold a pencil or can't bend their arm because they're connected to an IV, they can touch the iPad with their finger.

Adam Staub, MA, MT-BC, LCAT, a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist in the Child Life Program, explores music applications with patients and plays songs they request on YouTube or iTunes. He also uses the iPad to find lyrics on the web when a patient asks him to sing a favorite song. "The iPad has been invaluable for our music therapy interventions," he said. "When children have successful music experiences, it builds confidence and coping skills, which may help them express their feelings and needs to the medical staff."

Physician Spotlight

Bruce Schwartz, MD, Deputy Chairman and Clinical Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Sciences at Montefiore, has been named Chair-Elect of the Governing Council for the Section on Psychiatry and Substance Abuse Services of the American Hospital Association (AHA). Dr. Schwartz also helped create Montefiore and Einstein's behavioral management services organization, University Behavioral Associates (UBA) in 1995. He currently serves as President, CEO and Medical Director of UBA. Dr. Schwartz is a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and has been Clinical Director at Montefiore since 1985. His commitment to the AHA's vision of mental health parity and integrated health delivery systems is demonstrated by his service to many health organizations, including the Mental Health Association of New York City's Professional Advisory Board (Chairman), the Greater New York Hospital Association's Mental Health/Substance Abuse Committee, and the American Psychiatric Association's Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing (Consultant and Past Chair). He has been honored as a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

News

New Resource Guide for Family Caregivers In English and Spanish

Montefiore's Office of Community Health and the Caregiver Support Program have produced a new self-care resource guide for Bronx residents who are caring for an aging parent, spouse, partner, friend or child with an illness or disability. *Caring for Yourself While Caregiving: A Bronx Resource Guide* is a 32-page guidebook available in English and Spanish with information on caregiver support programs and groups, helpful websites and books, tips for relaxation, healthy eating and exercise resources, and ways to care for oneself spiritually and express oneself creatively. To order free copies for your patients or for yourself, send your request to Ronit Fallek, MPA, Director, Healing Arts Program, at PCareSupport@montefiore.org or call 718-920-6576.

Take the Healing Arts E-Survey

Montefiore Healing Arts is a new program launching this spring. It is designed to help associates relax, lower stress and express themselves creatively. The program is sponsored by Human Resources and Montefiore's Office of Community Health as part of the *To Your Health!* Associate Wellness Program. We would like to learn more about the kinds of activities that interest associates. Please visit www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?96B2DEC493D0CBC392 and share with us what you'd like to see as part of the Healing Arts program.

Events

3rd Annual Run for the Wild
Saturday, April 30 | Bronx Zoo
8:30 am, Runners
8:45 am, Family Fun Run/Walk

This event is hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Montefiore employees are eligible for a \$10 discount through March 5, and a \$5 discount through April 29, when they register for Run for the Wild. To register, visit www.wcsrunchforthewild.org and use promo code: MONTEFIORE2011.

Staff & Alumni Association 97th Annual Dinner Dance & Awards Night

Saturday, March 26 | 6:30 pm
Glen Island Harbour Club,
New Rochelle, NY

For tickets call 718-920-2625/2947 or email keisenbe@montefiore.org or nsambula@montefiore.org

Published by the Department of Marketing and Communications. Please share story ideas with: Katrina Woznicki, Editor, kwoznick@montefiore.org / 718-920-7448. *Update* is produced for Montefiore associates to keep them up-to-date with Montefiore news, events, clinical innovations, research and recognitions.

Montefiore