



September 21, 2018

# New Direction

## Cath lab renovation, new technology installation almost complete

No one enjoys undergoing surgery to treat a cardiac condition, but with advanced catheter-based procedures, patients have more effective, less invasive treatment options available to them these days. In our cath lab at Memorial Hospital, we've just upgraded to advanced imaging technology providing intuitive, procedure-specific tools that may help lower risks and shorten recovery times when treating our patients with cardiovascular disease.

"Quick and easy access to enhanced visualization and live navigation through soft tissue anatomy will ultimately help our cardiology specialists determine the optimal course of treatment with greater confidence," said Lauri Omsberg, cath lab director. "The system, which is currently being installed, is an Allura imaging system with ClarityIQ technology. It enables physicians to deliver fast and confident diagnosis, simplified procedures and an efficient clinical workflow. The table is designed for advanced peripheral imaging and will allow us to offer electrophysiology studies, which is an important option for our patients in East Texas."



"This new technology will offer quality imaging at a fraction of the radiation dose too, so as a result we'll reduce staff exposure," Lauri noted. "We'll also be able to offer our patients less contrast media during certain procedures."

Whether it's a routine coronary issue or the most complex structural heart disease, in the next couple of weeks, these new solutions will allow our team of specialists to perform a wider range of minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac procedures in a more patient-focused environment and that's good news for East Texas.

### Healthy Memorial offering exclusive staff lunchtime healthy cooking classes

Healthy Memorial will sponsor an exclusive meal prep class for interested employees in the Healthy Memorial Wellness Center at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Lunch will be provided, as well as a lesson on how to prep healthy meals in advance of a busy work week.

If you can't make it to that class, you can come to the community hands-on healthy cooking class on Thursday, Sept. 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To RSVP for these classes, call the community relations department at ext 4124.

### Preventing flu for employees, families

Flu season is quickly approaching our community, with several cases already presenting in the ER. That's a really early start for flu season, so Athena Johnson, employee health nurse, is encouraging all employees and family to get vaccinated at the upcoming annual employee wellness fair. See times below for a time that's convenient for you to come to the Healthy Memorial Wellness Center (old hemodialysis center) for flu shots, TB skin tests and N95 mask training. Families will receive flu vaccines in the Community Conference Room.



#### Employees:

Sunday, Oct. 14	1 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 15	7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16	7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 17	8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 18	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

#### Family only:

Monday, Oct. 22	3 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 24	3 p.m.- 8 p.m.

### Healthy Halloween

Sunday, Oct. 28  
3 to 5 p.m. Festival Park

**Interested in a career at NMH?**

Apply @ <https://www.nacmem.org/careers/all/>  
Stop by Human Resources or call 936.568.8543

## PTO accrual rates still increasing, correcting mistake on years of service

On an email dated 9/3/18, our new PTO accruals approved by administration were inadvertently listed incorrectly. The new accrual rate will still give employees back 50% of the PTO taken away during past budget cuts, but the years of service were listed incorrectly in the email. According to our long-standing "Paid Time Off" policy (HR 3.10), the **years of service** did not change with the new rate. The upper bracket in years of service should have read 15+ years instead of 10+.

Leadership humbly apologizes for the error, but please keep in mind that the PTO accrual was indeed increased.

### Incorrect Info Sent Out

Service Years	PTO Accrual
0-4.9	5.25
5-9.9	7
10 +	8.25
Exec	9

### Correct Info According to Policy

Service Years	PTO Accrual
0-4.9	5.98
5-14.9	7.62
15 +	8.86
Exec	9

## Fun is in full swing at Bomar

This week Bomar Rehab has had a blast, celebrating National Rehab Week with a full slate of events designed to create fun bonding moments. The week will conclude today with a mayor's proclamation, patient reunion, parade of cities and the always anticipated Bomar Olympics. Here are some highlights from crazy hat day, funny sock day and favorite snack break.



## HCAHPS Topic 5 - Communicating about medicines

There are two questions that go into this HCAHPS answer: 1) Before giving you any new medicine, how often did hospital staff tell you what the medicine was for? 2) Before giving you any new medicine, how often did hospital staff describe possible side effects in a way you could understand? As always, the only acceptable answer is ALWAYS.

These two questions are basic practice and part of safe medication administration. You should always tell patients what the medicine is, what it's for and possible side effects they might have. This should be done with all medications administered, but sometimes it's hard for the patient to remember all the new information they receive daily.

Look for the color-coded one-page sheets that have been handed out to nursing staff a few times, because these can be passed out to patients to help with medication information overload. The page shows the most common classes of medicines we pass out, with the most common side effects and the most common medicines in that class that are prescribed here. Our very own CNO, Linda Lawson, created this sheet for staff to use with information she obtained from our pharmacy on what is most commonly prescribed at Memorial. These sheets can be used for every patient and every medication, whether it's a new med or not.

It never hurts to ensure patients know this information about all their regular medications. When they answer the medicine question, hopefully they'll remember that sheet we gave them and the conversation we had about meds.