

Safe Haven for Abandoned Newborns

Southwest has recently refined its policies around abandoned newborns to comply with state law. The SAFE acronym is a great way to remember the process for receiving newborns at the hospital:

- **S** State law provides legal immunity from criminal prosecution to a parent who transfers a newborn.
- **A** Anonymity is guaranteed, if the newborn is less than 72 hours old and unharmed.
- **F** Fire Stations (staffed 24 hours) are one of two "safe" places designated by the State to receive newborns.
- **E** The Emergency Department is the only location at Southwest that is designated to receive newborns that fit the above criteria.

Upcoming CME Events:

"Donation after Cardiac Death"

Thursday, April 12, 2007—7 a.m. Ethics Grand Rounds—Medical Center Campus. Presented by Dean Gubler, DO, and Rachel Mackey, JD. Ms. Mackey is the mother of the first DCD case facilitated in our area. This compelling program comes to Southwest courtesy of the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank.

"Advanced Fetal Monitoring - A Multidisciplinary Approach" Saturday, April 14, 2007 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Washington State University Vancouver. Presented by Lisa Miller, CNM, JD. Ms. Miller brings over 20 years of experience in OB along with a unique legal viewpoint.

"Physician Well-Being Grand Rounds" Thursday, May 17, 2007, 6 p.m. Pearson Air Museum. An evening Grand Rounds event specially planned for Southwest credentialed medical staff and their spouse/partner/significant other. "Managing Generational Differences" will be presented by Greg Nelson of the Studer Group.

"Inpatient Glycemic Control Training" Thursday-Friday, October 11-12, 2007, Vancouver Hilton. A day-long educational and mentoring opportunity for those developing an inpatient glycemic control program across the spectrum of care. Co-sponsored by Southwest and OHSU.

Firstenburg Tower Firsts

The Firstenburg Tower was a popular place on opening day Feb. 19. The Tower operated at close to capacity with six of 13 new operating rooms running and nearly 30 surgeries. Staff on 2 North and 2 South also moved 36 patients to the new patient floors—Surgery Seven and Surgery Eight. The new Tower is also home for Outpatient Lab, Pharmacy, Central Sterile Processing, and Pre-Admission Services. The new Heart and Vascular Center opened the next day with a full schedule of five cases in two of five new cath labs. Congratulations to the many staff members who worked hard to make the move happen.



Staff prepares one of 13 spacious new ORs at the Firstenburg Tower.

Transfusion Guidelines Updated

The safety of blood products has continued to improve over the last decade. The risk of transmitted viral infection such as HIV and viral hepatitis is now less than 1 in a million. On the other hand, evidence continues to mount linking blood transfusions with serious health consequences, including immune suppression and transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI). Overuse of blood products, especially Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) increases the risk of these and other commonly recognized adverse effects of transfusion. Southwest recently updated its Transfusion Guidelines and Transfusion of Blood Components Order Form to reflect national consensus guidelines. The most notable change is the criteria for transfusion of plasma (FFP): Plasma transfusion is indicated when the INR is > 1.6, and the patient is bleeding or about to undergo an invasive procedures.

March Campaign Targets Patient Safety

Southwest is marking National Patient Safety Month in March with a new patient safety campaign. Please remember to:

- Date, time and sign all entries in the patient's medical chart.
- Avoid using cursive writing for orders.
- Include indications for all PRN medication orders.
- Avoid PRN restraint orders.
- Avoid dangerous abbreviations.
- Wash your hands.

Southwest will be distributing miniature safety cones in the doctor's lounge and on the clinical units with key messages around the March safety campaign. Unit secretaries will carry the safety theme one step further by wearing bright construction vests with additional messages about the campaign.



Cancer Center Showcases Advances in CNS Treatments

Southwest treated 1,255 cancer cases during 2005, and each case represented a unique individual receiving exceptional medicine and extraordinary care. "2006 marked a period of rebirth and expansion of services," comments Donna Feild, RPh, MBA, Administrative Director for the Cancer Center.

The Cancer Center's 2006 Annual Report showcases advances in treating tumors in the central nervous system (CNS). Christopher Hoffelt, MD, explains risk factors, diagnostic techniques and treatments that Southwest uses, ranging from surgery, radiation therapy, radio frequency ablation, chemotherapy and CyberKnife®, one of the most advanced radiosurgery systems in the world.

In addition to the registry and statistical data expected in an annual report, Joan M. Miller, RN, tells her own story as one of Southwest's first CyberKnife patients. Southwest's Cancer Center team also describes their exemplary research and supportive services, and provides commentary about new studies on how exercise helps brain cancer patients. To download a PDF of the annual report, go to www.swmedicalcenter.org/annualreportca. Or, to request a printed copy, call (360) 514-2174.

