



PULSE

**August 30, 2017
VOL. 28 NO. 8**

NEWS OF INTEREST TO RPMH EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Janie Juarez, our August Employee of the Month! Janie is a Dietary Clerk and has been with RPMH since November 6, 2000. Janie was nominated by a co-worker that said, "Janie is always friendly and pleasant on the phone. She is eager to help when called upon." They went on to say that "RPMH is lucky to have someone like Janie!" Janie and her husband, John, live in Sweetwater. Congratulations to Janie, our August Employee of the Month!

SPECIAL DAYS



September 4 - Labor Day Holiday
September 10 – Grandparents Day
September 11 – Patriots Day
September 14 – Book Sale in ER Classroom
September 15 – Sweetwater Homecoming
September 25, 26 & 27 – Cafeteria Plan Enrollment!



Volunteer News

September 14 – Book Sale

Can you name the Core Values of RPMH? They are Excellence, Accountability, Stewardship, Compassion and Others First.

SPECIAL MENTIONS



Amanda Gonzales
Amber Hope
Arnettia Jennings
Becky Bohall
Beth Harbour
Diane Calcote
Dr. Liedtke
Dr. Moses
Dr. Smola

Jeree Hendley
Jodi Kingston
Kasey Jeffrey
Sue Baucom
Lisa Mann
Loran Hendrix
Matt Weaver
Misty Whoolery-Pratt
Mitzi Gunn

Rachel Sharp
Robin Rainey
Stephanie Robles
Vicky Hanes

NEW EMPLOYEES



WELCOME!!!

Welcome New RPMH Employees:

Jade Crawford, RN- OB	Cris Pyburn, CNA-Med Surg
Karen Harkness, RN-OB	Annie Miles-Med Surg
Hannah Rasberry, LVN- OB	Maricela Lomas-Eaker Family Medicine
Christie Kratch, RN- PRN Pool	
Stephanie Richey, RN- PRN Pool	
Brandy Covington- ER	
Lindsay Sanders, LVN- Eaker Family Medicine	
Kendra Merket, LVN- Eaker Family Medicine	

PATIENT OPINION POLL



"I would like to thank everyone who assisted my mother during her hospital stay. Everyone treated her very kindly and was very polite to her and the family. Thank you for your kindness."

"The ER nurses took such great care of me! They were attentive to my every need. Stephanie Smola was so sweet to check on me often and made sure I was doing ok. I am so thankful that Heidi Schlemmer has awesome skills and could successful perform my lumbar puncture. Thank ya so much for treating me like family!"

"Jodi Kingston is so competent and nice. She went above and beyond!"

"Arnettia Jennings is such a natural and so sweet. She took the time to listen to me and checked on me often."

"Robin Rainey was always there when called upon and with a positive attitude."

"Loran Hendrix has such a sweet smile and it shows how she loves taking care of her patient and their family."

"I feel like a new woman and grateful to all the staff at the hospital that took care of me. You all brought me back to life and I am so appreciative."

PROFESSOR ED



EDUCATION



Online Education: health.edu, growing up with us.com
(newsletter staff login: 435617), txhealthsteps.com,
netce.com

Healthcare Provider BLS: September 19th at 1 p.m., Cardiac
Wellness Classroom

PALS: September 5th at 10 am, Cardiac Wellness Classroom
September 26th at 10 am, Cardiac Wellness Classroom

Safety Storm Alpha: Sept. 20th at 8 am, 10 am, 1pm Cardiac
Wellness Classroom Sept. 27th at 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
Cardiac Wellness Classroom

State Board Requirement for Nursing Education

- A nurse is required to retain continuing competency records for three licensure renewal cycles at a minimum. 20 hours of CNE's is required every 2 years.
- LVN's and RN's are required to complete at least two contact hours of CNE in nursing jurisprudence and ethics prior to the end of each third two-year licensure renewal cycle. You may complete this at health.edu Course #33317.
- LVN's and RN's whose practice includes the older adult or geriatric population is required to complete at least two contact hours each renewal cycle. You may complete this at health.edu Course #35815.
- ER nursing staff needs to complete a one-time Forensic Evidence Collection. You may complete this at health.edu Course # 311614.

**Remember to check bulletin boards and RPMH calendar for
upcoming education!**

Jewel Parker, R.N.
Staff Educator
Ext. 306

HENRIETTA



THE HIPAA HIPPO

HIPAA IN A DISASTER SITUATION

With the hurricane causing evacuation of health care facilities along the Texas coast, it seems appropriate to review HIPAA Privacy Rules during a disaster situation in the event we receive some of those patients evacuated from that area. Below is an excerpt from [hhs.gov/hipaa](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa)'s frequently asked questions.

Can health care information be shared in a severe disaster?

Answer:

Providers and health plans covered by the HIPAA Privacy Rule can share patient information in all of the following ways:

TREATMENT: Health care providers can share patient information as necessary to provide treatment.

Treatment includes:

- Sharing information with other providers (including hospitals and clinics),
- Referring patients for treatment (including linking patients with available providers in areas where the patients have relocated), and
- Coordinating patient care with others (such as emergency relief workers or others that can help in finding patients appropriate health services).

Providers can also share patient information to the extent necessary to seek payment for these health care services.

NOTIFICATION: Health care providers can share patient information as necessary to identify, locate, and notify family members, guardians, or anyone else responsible for the individual's care of the individual's location, general condition or death.

The health care provider should get verbal permission from individuals, when possible; but if the individual is incapacitated or not available, providers may share information for these purposes if, in their professional judgement, doing so is in the patient's best interest.

- Thus, when necessary, the hospital may notify the police, the press, or the public at large to the extent necessary to help locate, identify, or otherwise notify family members and others as to the location and general condition of their loved ones.
- In addition, when a health care provider is sharing information with disaster relief organizations that, like the American Red Cross, are authorized by law or by their charters to assist in disaster relief efforts, it is unnecessary to obtain a patient's permission to share the information if doing so would interfere with the organization's ability to respond to the emergency.

IMMINENT DANGER: Providers can share patient information with anyone as necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public – consistent with applicable law and the provider's standards of ethical conduct.

FACILITY DIRECTORY: Health care facilities maintaining a directory of patients can tell people who call or ask about individuals whether the individual is at the facility, their location in the facility and general condition.

Of course, the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not apply to disclosures if they are not made by entities covered by the Privacy Rule. Thus, for instance, the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not restrict the American Red Cross from sharing patient information.

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Have you heard that Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital will be changing our overhead emergency paging? The Texas Hospital Association as well as FEMA and Homeland Security and multiple other agencies have identified that in the instance of a disaster or emergency that the simplest mode of communication is to say what you mean. Plain language emergency paging has been proven to provide less confusion and in many times allowed for rapid understanding of multiple entities of a message saving lives and effort. Communication techniques in an emergency can make the difference in actions and how they are carried out creating an overall environment of safety and productivity.



So what does plain language overhead paging mean for Rolling Plains overhead paging? It means instead of hearing multiple colors or letters that stand for emergency situations that are happening in the hospital or surrounding area you will hear exactly what is happening and where the emergency is located. Tentatively this will take effect on October 1 of this year. The ONLY codes that WILL NOT be changing will be: Code Blue and Code Pink. So in the event of the need to pass general information you may hear a message such as: "FACILITY ALERT: Fire alarm activation in Med Surg" repeated three times or "FACILITY ALERT: Tornado warning Nolan County take precautions immediately." In the event of a incident that requires security or need of law enforcement the messages will be initiated with the preface of SECURITY ALERT and then will be followed with the specific security problem ex: "SECURITY ALERT: Code pink in OB or other appropriate location" " SECURITY ALERT: Security needed med surg". "SECURITY ALERT: Bomb threat hospital main campus." " SECURITY ALERT: Hazmat incident in radiology." In the case of a medical emergency of any type requiring multiple departments for rapid medical care the event will be prefaced with MEDICAL ALERT followed by the type of incident for example "MEDICAL ALERT: Mass Casualty Emergency room arrival time 5 minutes" or "MEDICAL ALERT: Medical Emergency in radiology"" MEDICAL ALERT: Code Blue ICU." Each message should be repeated three times as



in the past. While these are a few of the messages that may be announced there will be the possibility of many others while there will be many others each will be equally easy to understand(Active Shooter, Evacuation, Patient Elopement, Electrical Outage, Water Outage, Trauma Stat or Condition T).

Departmental training will be conducted throughout the hospital prior to the initiation of the change of practice in order that everyone will be comfortable and familiar with the change and actions that should be performed for each instance.

Although the understanding of each code is being simplified you will be expected to continue to react and know the appropriate actions to be taken with each incident/message type when announced.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO REACT IN RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY?

RPMH NURSES AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital recently provided scholarships to Stephanie Smith, RN and Shawna Ham, LVN to be used to pursue studies toward a career in an allied health care profession. Chief Nursing Officer, Maxine Montano, RN presented the scholarship awards, of which Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital provided \$500 matching funds for the \$500 scholarships provided by the Northwest Texas Hospital Association.

WAY TO GO



LADIES!!!

The Northwest Texas Hospital Association established the scholarship program in order to assist smaller communities in the state in their efforts to recruit health care professionals to work in rural hospitals. The Association awarded a total of \$5000 this year to students nominated by member hospitals. Each hospital provides the matching scholarship amount for a total of \$500 per student. The Northwest Texas Hospital Association is the oldest association of its kind in the state and is composed of hospitals, businesses and others interested in health care and continuing access to health care. The membership territory covers the area from the panhandle in the North, to Dallas in the East, El Paso in the West and Kerrville in the South.

Shawna Ham, LVN works in the RPMH ER and is attending TSTC West Texas for an Associate's Degree in Nursing. She will graduate in December 2018. Stephanie Smith, RN is the RPMH OR Nurse Manager and she is attending University of Texas at Arlington to earn a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing.



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Southeast Elementary School



J.P. Cowen Elementary School



Roscoe ISD



Highland ISD



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Sweetwater Intermediate School



Sweetwater High School

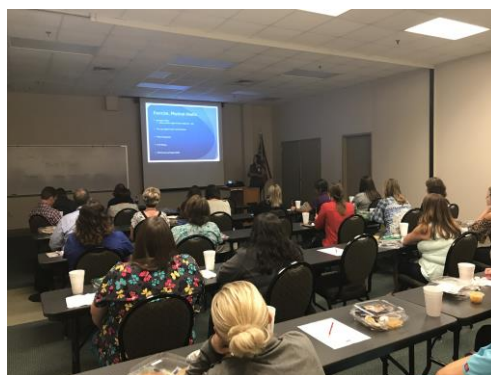
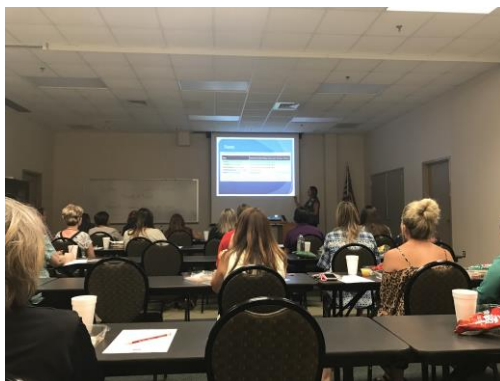


Sweetwater Middle School



East Ridge Elementary School

LUNCH & LEARN



Thanks to Dr. Franklin for being the guest speaker at the August Lunch & Learn. She did an awesome job and there was many in attendance!

fun facts

According to Hartford Healthcare every person has a unique tongue print. This can be used to identify you.



