



PULSE

February 28, 2017
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NEWS OF INTEREST TO RPMH EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Lisa Ramos, our February Employee of the Month! Lisa is a housekeeper and has worked in our Environmental Services Department since January 2016. A co-worker in Med/Surg nominated Lisa saying "This member of the housekeeping department demonstrates what team work is and what RPMH is all about." He also said that she always gives the impression that is her job to do all she can to make the patients stay as comfortable as possible. Congratulations Lisa! We are proud of you and grateful for all you do to make RPMH a great place!

SPECIAL DAYS



February is American Heart Month

March - National Social Worker's Month

March 9 – 12 – World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup

March 12 – Daylight Savings Time begins. Move your clocks ahead one hour.

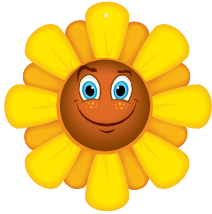
March 17 – St. Patrick's Day. Wear your green!

March 20 – First day of Spring.

March 30 – National Doctor's Day

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

SPECIAL MENTIONS



Adrianna Ashley
Bonnie Garcia
Candace Alford
Dallas Hickman
Danyel Culwell
Dr. Lawson
Dr. Liedtke
Dr. Moses
Dr. Smola

Elizabeth Reams
Estella Longoria
Jennifer James
Jeree Hendley
Jonni Dennison
Kagan Benham
Kasey Jeffrey
Keri Halford
Loran Hendrix

Misty Austermann
Roxanne Hernandez
Shawna Ham
Stephanie McCorkle
Tracy Villanueva
Vicky Hanes
Vilma Dawley
Wendy Davis

NEW EMPLOYEES



WELCOME!!!

Welcome New RPMH Employees:

ER – Jennifer Sanders
Radiology – Lisa Spencer
Environmental Services – Victor Taylor
Information Technology – Kenny Green

PATIENT OPINION POLL



“My family and I would like to thank RPMH for being so sweet and kind to us while our father was in the hospital. Keep on smiling!!!”

“Tracy Villanueva, in Admissions who had all the necessary paperwork ready for me to have for my surgery and Kasey Jeffrey was very informative and made me feel very comfortable during my procedure.”

“The Admissions ladies were very friendly and the hospital was so clean and my room was spotless. I am so thankful that we have a sleep lab here in Nolan County.”

“What a great staff we have here at RPMH. Kagan Benham, Dallas Hickman and Roxanne Hernandez in Med Surg were so helpful and the Dietary department had wonderful food. I think that RPMH is the best hospital-it saved my life! I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.”

“I would like to say thank you to Estella Longoria for taking such great care of me. I appreciate you so much for making me the wonderful pillow for my stomach. You made my stay in the hospital such a delight. I would like to also thank Bonnie Garcia for taking such great care of me. You are such an awesome nurse and I'm so glad you were mine. I can't say enough about Dr. Moses for fitting me into his busy schedule while I was so sick and in pain. He constantly kept me informed of the surgery procedure before and after. You are an amazing doctor!”

PROFESSOR ED



EDUCATION



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

[Healthcare Provider BLS](#): March 23rd at 1 p.m., Cardiac
Wellness Classroom

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

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

HENRIETTA



THE HIPAA HIPPO

WHO IS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR A DECEASED PERSON?

HIPAA considers the protected health information of a deceased person to be protected under HIPAA for 50 years after death.

The personal representative of a deceased person may obtain copies of the person's medical records. The personal representative of a deceased person is the executor/administrator of the person's estate. Or, if there is no executor/administrator of the estate, then State law defines who can obtain the records in order of relationship to the patient: spouse, adult children, parents, adult siblings and then other adult relatives who are closest related by blood.

If there is a dispute as to who can be considered a personal representative, the hospital can ask the requestor to provide proof of executorship before providing copies of the medical records.

WHO **IS NOT** A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR A DECEASED PERSON ?

Unless named as the executor/administrator of the estate, these persons cannot be considered a personal representative of a deceased person and therefore cannot receive the medical record or names of staff who cared for the patient, death record, or demographic information such as a social security number, date of birth, etc.:

- A health care agent named in a medical power of attorney. A medical power of attorney is no longer valid after the person expires. The authority of the health care agent ends with the death of the person. If the agent wants to request medical records, an authorization signed by the executor/administrator of the estate or next of kin with the authority to act must sign the authorization for the records.
- The hospital must honor any expressed preference of the patient of which the hospital is aware. If the patient stated they do not want a particular person to receive any information about them, the hospital must honor that directive. Even after the patient's death.
- A stepchild, step sibling, or any other person not related by blood to the deceased.
- An ex-wife/ex-husband (yes, we have had such a request).
- A boyfriend or girlfriend (and again, yes, we have had such a request).

Please remember that medical records are requested for a multitude of reasons -- for living and deceased patients -- and the hospital has the responsibility to release protected health information lawfully and in compliance with HIPAA regulations and other state and federal laws.

If you have any questions about the release of protected health information, please contact the Privacy Officer, Martha Rippy, at extension 265.

TORNADOES

This month as we draw closer to Spring and the opening of Severe Weather months we will review the Weather plan that is included in the Emergency Operations Plan. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) evaluates by county, yearly the occurrences of severe weather and the monetary and physical damages incurred by each. For Nolan County this includes: Hail, wind, lightening, floods and tornadoes. Although Nolan County in the past has had major damage from the tornado of 1985 the incidence of hail and damage from hail and wind occur much more frequently with damage on a regular basis. That being said it is imperative that we understand the meaning of terminology used and our task that should take place with each to assist in the speed of response and survival of patients.

A Severe Thunderstorm is a storm recognized by radar imagery that is capable of producing hail that is at least 2 inches in diameter or larger, and/or wind gusts of 75 mph or greater, and/or a tornado that produces EF2 or greater damage. When a severe thunderstorm warning is issued measures that should occur include: identification of all patients on every floor, how that patient should or can move (ambulatory, wheelchair, gurney) in the event of an emergent move and how many people are needed to move that patient. This information should be recorded and placed on sticky notes that are highly visible on the outside of the patient's door. In the event of a emergent move anyone that approaches the patients room will be aware of what is required for movement of the patient. In addition this information should be reported to the house supervisor on duty. WHY? Severe Thunderstorm can rapidly produce a tornado without a Tornado watch or warning and you may only have moments to place patients and families in a safe location. If you know what is needed it will facilitate speed and safety in the movement of the patients and assist in making sure that appropriate resources are available.

The following are direct excerpts from the emergency management operations plans for Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital submitted for approval by the EOC committee:

Standard Alert Messages Are:

Tornado Watch Conditions are present that adhere to the formation of a tornado. When a watch is issued by NOAA the following actions should occur.

- Each department with patients should identify the number of patients in the department as well as identify the method required to move that patient emergently (ambulatory, wheelchair, gurney) and the number of staff required to move the patient. Once complete the Mode of movement should be placed on each individual door using a well visualized sticky note on the door that specifies how that patient should be moved. The number of patients and number requiring assistance and the number of staff present should be forwarded to the Nursing Supervisor.

Tornado Warning A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurring. A warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property. If the pathway is determined in the warning to impact the facility the following actions should take place immediately.

- Instructions should be given to ambulatory patients to move immediately to designated safe areas
- Patients needing assistance in moving into the safe areas should be assisted to those areas as previously identified (wheelchairs, gurney) in the watch phase.

Your knowledge of this portion of the Emergency Operations Plan may provide the extra few minutes needed to insure that all staff and patients are safe in the event of a Tornado.

“In fair weather prepare for foul.”

Thomas Fuller