GDMH nursing team completes ACLS course

Marlene Quackenbush, Executive Assistant Director, Patient Services at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, is pleased to announce the Hospital's Emergency nursing team has successfully completed Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training.

Hospital's The Emergency Department is just one of a few institutions where every full-time and regular part-time nurse has been trained in ACLS.

"It's a known fact that Emergency cardiac care often makes the difference between life and death. Equipping Georgetown hos-Emergency pital's Department with the technology to address life-threatening cardiac conditions is only half the story. The other component is ensuring our staff has the training to respond quickly and effectively," said Quackenbush.

ACLS, first developed in 1980 by the American Heart Association, was initially designed for physicians and critical care workers. Its benefits were eventually expanded to include Emergency and ICU nursing staff in hospitals all over North America.

According to Emergency Department Nurse Manager, Myra Britton, Georgetown hospital is committed to providing ACLS training for all Emergency staff. "We've seen a major improvement in our ability to address cardiac care patients."

Prior to taking the ACLS course, the nurses were involved in six weeks of individual study and preparation. The course itself was carried out over a weekend, and involved lectures and hands-on practical sessions. When completed, nursing staff had acquired the qualifications necessary for the treatment, intervention, and administration of drugs to cardiac patients.

"While nurses are not expected to carry out all aspects of ACLS, we can administer certain life-saving drugs, and introduce cardiac defibrillation when needed," Britton said.

Because the ACLS course is more intensive, it differs from other life-saving pro-

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grams such as BCLS (Basic Cardiac Life Support) or CPR (Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation). BCLS training is mandatory for all RN and RNAs at Georgetown Hospital. As well, recertification for all cardiac programs is either on a yearly basis or every three years.

The Department's nursing team completed this training in May. All Emergency physicians are also trained in ACLS.



Two-and-a-half-year old Jennah Robichaud checked for the official "OK" before petting the animals at the Georgetown Marketplace petting zoo Wednesday afternoon. She quickly discovered feeding the rabbit was safer than feeding the chickens.

photo by Oksana Buhel/HHTW



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