Sparrow has Michigan’s first and only certified Comprehensive Stroke Center

The Sparrow Stroke Center, in collaboration with Michigan State University, has achieved recognition as the first facility in Michigan and one of only about 20 nationally to be certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission.

Nearly every family in America has been impacted by stroke in some way; stroke is the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause for disability among adults. The Comprehensive Stroke Center designation recognizes elite hospital stroke programs that have the infrastructure, well-trained Caregivers and state-of-the-art equipment to diagnose and treat Patients with the most complex strokes.

“We are honored to have met The Joint Commission’s very rigorous standards and to put Sparrow on the map as a truly world-class Stroke Center,” said Syed Hussain, MD, Medical Director of Stroke Services at Sparrow and an MSU HealthTeam neurologist. “Michigan State University and Sparrow are committed to constantly improving the quality of our care and providing Patients the best possible treatment at all stages of stroke.”

“Speak Up” to protect Patients and Caregivers

Sparrow is implementing a new campaign to remind and encourage all Caregivers that the safety of our Patients is our top priority and is everyone’s responsibility. Part of that plan is the creation of a new video, “Speak Up,” which encourages Caregivers to stop an unsafe practice before it occurs.

The video features Sparrow leaders in various locations throughout the health system giving their permission to Caregivers to speak up immediately if they see something that may endanger the safety of a Patient. The campaign will also emphasize the importance of talking to your leader about the incident and possibly reporting it to Risk Management.

“We want our Caregivers to be able to ‘Speak Up’ and stop an unsafe practice immediately,” said Larry Wilhite, Vice President of Legal and Risk Management Services. “We realize speaking up may be intimidating for some. We’re hoping this video and subsequent campaign will alleviate some of those fears and encourage Caregivers to put safety first.”

The Speak Up video will debut to Caregivers in early March.
Efforts to reduce readmissions make national stage

A program that Sparrow is involved in to decrease hospital readmissions was recently highlighted in the prestigious Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). Sparrow Physicians Dr. James Haering, M.D., Dr. Rao Bandi, M.D., Dr. Jim DeMuth, M.D., have been instrumental in implementing Michigan’s Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (MPRO) at Sparrow.

The project focuses on reducing hospitalization and rehospitalization rates for Medicare patients by improving care transitions – when a patient moves from one care setting to another, such as from a hospital to their home or a nursing facility.

The project is funded through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), with Lansing being one of only 14 communities nationally to participate. In Lansing, hospitalizations were reduced by 7.2 percent and rehospitalizations by 8.3 percent, resulting in a savings to Medicare of nearly $3 million so far.

Nurses honored during annual State of Nursing event

Nurses throughout Sparrow were honored for their accomplishments and contributions to quality care at the recent annual State of Nursing event. The event recognized nurses who are leaders in quality and Patient experience.

“Nurses want to know they have made positive differences in the lives of our Patients, families and colleagues,” said Elizabeth Henry, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. “The State of Nursing provides an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments and provides a strategic road map for the future.”

This year’s award recipients include: Preceptor of the Year, Pauline Ashton; Most Improved Practice, RNICU for promoting breastfeeding; and Most Innovative Practice, Pediatrics for massage therapy.

Use your Sparrow ID to make purchases!

Caregivers can use their Sparrow ID cards beginning Feb. 18 to make purchases via payroll deductions at dining locations, gift shops and SPA on the Sparrow Main Campus, St. Lawrence Campus, and Sparrow Clinton Hospital.

This exciting improvement of Sparrow services will make dining and shopping more convenient for our Caregivers!

You must register your Sparrow ID before making purchases by bringing it to a registration location. Registration is now open. Charges will appear on your paycheck within two pay periods of purchase.

For more information, visit the SPA section of the Sparrow Intranet.

Registration locations

» SPA at the Sparrow Main Campus
  (Extended hours from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
  Feb. 4-28)
» Security office at the St. Lawrence Campus
» Human Resources at Sparrow Clinton Hospital
» Third-shift Caregivers on the Sparrow Main Campus can also register by visiting Security after hours

Sparrow Ionia promotes heart health for women

Sparrow Ionia Hospital Caregivers supported Go Red for Women Day on Feb. 1 to promote heart health for women. They also sold “Red Dress” pins for $1, sending the funds to the American Heart Association.

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Kevin Price has been appointed the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for both Sparrow Clinton Hospital and Sparrow Ionia Hospital. Price has served in this role for Sparrow Clinton Hospital for the past five years.

Dr. Ted Glynn, MD, was selected to serve as Vice President of Medical Education. Dr. Glynn previously served as the Program Director of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Sparrow and McLaren Greater Lansing.

Dr. Peter Graham, MD, is now serving as Medical Director of Physicians Health Plan. He previously served as Vice President at Sparrow Medical Group.

UAW units successfully ratify new 3-year contracts

Sparrow and UAW leaders worked together once again to negotiate new three-year contracts that work to the benefit of all – Caregivers, Sparrow and the Patients we serve.

The Technical and Service bargaining units ratified agreements on Jan. 23, after Skilled Maintenance and SSH Service and Technical units approved contracts in November.

Together, more than 2,400 UAW members will benefit from a strong wage and benefit package that directly reflects the important role they play in Sparrow's mission to provide quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time.

The negotiating teams used a highly collaborative process and we appreciate the dedication of all those involved as we work together to improve the health of the people in our communities.

Pharmacist/magician/hypnotist to entertain at Caregiver Show

Keith Kocher can make a card disappear or put a dozen people under a hypnotic trance while keeping a running patter with crowds large and small.

He’s also a veteran Sparrow pharmacist who loves “helping people get better.”

Kocher is a professional magician and hypnotist who performs 5-10 shows a month throughout the country in between his full-time work at the Inpatient Pharmacy at Sparrow Main and St. Lawrence campuses.

He’ll be featured, along with numerous other talented Sparrow staffers, in the Sparrow Caregiver Variety Show at 7 p.m., March 23, at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Tickets are $7 at the door and proceeds benefit the Care for the Caregivers Fund.

“I love being a pharmacist,” Kocher says. “There’s the side of helping people get better. That’s why I chose the hospital setting.

“For me, entertainment is an outlet.”

Sparrow joins effort during Clinical Trials Awareness Day

The Sparrow Cancer Center joined state Rep. Gail Haines’ effort to raise awareness and encourage participation in clinical trials during the recent Clinical Trial Awareness Day at the state Capitol.

The Sparrow Cancer Center has one of the largest clinical trial programs in the state. Sparrow Patients, including Ann Herzberg, 56, of Eaton Rapids, are currently taking part in more than 20 clinical trials dedicated to treating all types of cancer.

“Whether I succeed or not individually, anything and everything they learn might save someone else’s life, if not mine,” said Herzberg, who is currently participating in her second clinical trial to battle Stage IV colon cancer, and hasn’t had any advancement in her cancer in several months.

Visit sparrow.org/cancer for more information about the Sparrow Cancer Center. For more information about clinical trials at Sparrow, visit sparrow.org/cancer-clinical-trials.
Physicians to be honored during Doctors’ Day

In honor of next month’s Doctors’ Day, Caregivers are invited to share the names of Physicians who inspire them and why by visiting Sparrow.org/InspiredByPhysicians and entering a personalized message. Each message should be no more than 160 characters.

A special reception will be held on Monday, March 25 to honor Sparrow Physicians as part of our Doctors’ Day celebration.

“Our physicians are dedicating themselves to the health of our Patients throughout this community,” said Brian Schroeder, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. “We encourage all Caregivers and Patients to honor and thank our physicians on Doctors’ Day, March 30.”

Doctors’ Day allows Caregivers and Patients to recognize all of our Physicians whose commitment and tireless dedication is one reason Sparrow was selected to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network and was honored with the Michigan Quality Council's leadership award for excellence.

Behavioral Health nurse is DAISY Award winner for work on garden

It started out as a few small seeds outside of Sparrow’s St. Lawrence campus. But what transpired was something much more inspiring.

Carley Parsons, a registered nurse for Sparrow Behavioral Health, is being honored as a DAISY Award winner for work on a new garden that served as therapeutic treatment for Patients. Parsons worked with Patients to plan, implement, and monitor a garden of fruits, vegetables, and flowers as part of their treatment.

“This is just one example of Carley going above and beyond in terms of innovation, compassion, accountability, and respect in providing excellent, quality care to our Patients,” said Kathleen Frybarger, Clinical Director of Behavioral Health and Parsons’ leader. “It was truly awesome to watch everyone work side by side on this activity. Carley’s been an inspiration to our Patients.”

The DAISY Award is given to nurses whose clinical skill and compassionate care exemplify the kind of nurse who Patients, their families, and Caregivers recognize as an outstanding role model.