Spring is coming, and so is The Joint Commission

It won’t be long before teams from The Joint Commission (TJC), an accreditation agency dedicated to continuously improving healthcare, are walking our halls.

To prepare for the upcoming survey, we’ve developed department leader checklists, we’re conducting tracer team surveys to spot check the health system, and we will be distributing Quality Care pocket guides to put the basics at your fingertips.

We need all Caregivers to search out problem areas and take ownership of correcting them. Watch for more details on a Caregiver Scavenger Hunt with prizes for Caregivers who find and submit violations.

If you have a question about the TJC survey, contact Marianne Ball, Director of Accreditation, at 364.5229 or marianne_j.ball@sparrow.org.

Mary Jane (McClintock) Wilson wins Founders’ Award

Sparrow Volunteer Mary Jane (McClintock) Wilson received Sparrow’s highest honor, the 2013 Sparrow Founders’ Award, at this month’s Founders’ Day celebration.

Wilson has served as a Sparrow Volunteer for more than 45 years. She has served as the Women’s Board President and became an Emeritae Member of the Board in 1989.

Her love of history has steered her involvement with Sparrow, and she is known for being an active volunteer historian throughout Lansing.

Founders’ Day was celebrated on March 18, where Wilson was recognized and the 114 founders of the hospital were remembered. Sparrow was founded in 1896.
Sparrow first in mid-Michigan to perform new procedure giving hope to high-risk heart Patients

For Patients who have run out of options because they are considered too high-risk to undergo traditional heart bypass or open heart surgery, transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure, or TAVR, provides a new outlook on life.

The minimally invasive uses a catheter to deliver a replacement prosthetic valve to the heart through an artery. Approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for high-risk Patients in late 2012, Sparrow is the only mid-Michigan hospital performing the procedure.

“The TAVR procedure is an amazing tool to treat Patients who would normally be left without options and suffering from chest pain, dizziness, and shortness of breath to the extent that even basic tasks are too much,” notes Dr. Gaurav Dhar, MD, a Sparrow Thoracic and Cardiovascular Institute (TCI) interventional cardiologist on the TAVR team.

Telestroke program gives more Patients access to Sparrow’s nationally recognized care

Sparrow’s nationally recognized Stroke Center is tapping into iPads and video monitors to help diagnose and provide crucial, potentially life-saving treatment to stroke Patients at Emergency Departments throughout mid-Michigan.

The launch of the region’s first Telestroke network allows Sparrow Caregivers to video conference with Physicians and Patients at surrounding hospitals such as Sparrow Ionia, Sparrow Clinton, and Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital.

“By utilizing an iPad in our hands and talking to physicians at surrounding locations, we’re able to help save lives,” said Dr. Anmar Razak, MD, Sparrow Stroke Neurologist and incoming Director of the Telestroke program.

“Time is imperative when it comes to stroke treatment, so being able to video conference in real time can drastically improve a Patient’s chances of making a full recovery.”

PECSH/MNA Caregivers ratify contract modifications

The 2,200 nurses and healthcare professionals in PECSH/MNA recently ratified modifications to their current contract that work to the benefit of all – Caregivers, Sparrow and the Patients we serve.

“For 25 years, Sparrow and MNA have worked closely together to put Patient needs first and the success of our work is reflected in our selection as a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network and receiving the Nurse Magnet designation,” said Dennis Swan, Sparrow President and CEO.

Achieving this agreement gives Sparrow and our Caregivers the ability to continue focusing our efforts on transforming care in mid-Michigan and improving Patient safety, quality, satisfaction and value.

Putting our best foot forward

March of Dimes, March for Babies

Saturday, April 27 | 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. start
Riverfront Park, Lansing

To register, go to marchforbabies.org, click “join a team” and select Sparrow Hospital

For more information, call 517.364.2245.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

Sunday, April 28 | 2 p.m. | State Capitol, Lansing

Register at komenmidmichigan.org and select “Sparrow Team.” $25 entry fee through April 22, otherwise $30 including race day.

Relay for Life

Join a Sparrow team in one of the several races throughout mid-Michigan by registering at relayforlife.org/lansingmi
Volunteer today for a cancer-free tomorrow

One out of every two men, and one out of every three women, will face a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. That is why Sparrow is joining our long-term partner – the American Cancer Society – to encourage Caregivers to consider taking part in the Cancer Prevention Study – 3 (CPS-3).

Participation only requires that you be between the ages of 30 and 65 with no prior cancer diagnosis and a willingness to commit to a long-term study. By joining, you can help save lives and make a difference for future generations.

CPS-3 study enrollment at Sparrow will take place on Friday, May 3, from 2-6 p.m. in the SPB Atrium, and Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. at the MAC. Study participants complete an initial survey, provide a waist measurement and a small blood sample. Follow-up surveys will be mailed to your home every few years.

To schedule your enrollment appointment, visit www.cancer.org/midmicps3.

Jacqueline Thomas-Hall recognized in national diversity publication

Jacqueline Thomas-Hall, Director of Diversity & Inclusion/Pastoral Care, recently received important recognition when she was featured in the national magazine Profiles in Diversity Journal.

Thomas-Hall was profiled in a story called “Answers from Today’s African American Leaders,” including her background and thoughts on business and diversity issues. You can find the issue at diversityjournal.com. She was nominated to be included in the article by former Sparrow Caregiver Kiersten Swantek.

“I was quite honored and appreciative that a Caregiver felt that I deserved this recognition,” she said.

Inspired by our Physicians, celebrate National Doctors’ Day

Please take a moment to share comments about the Physicians who inspire you and why, by visiting sparrow.org/inspiredbyphysicians.

We use these personal messages throughout the hospital and publicly as we honor their commitment and tireless dedication to individual lives and our community for National Doctors’ Day, which was Saturday, March 30.
**March is National Nutrition Month, and what better time to highlight Sparrow’s new eat well initiative.**

An eat well label represents menu items that are a healthier choice because they meet specific criteria established by the USDA Dietary Guidelines for calories, fat and sodium content.

Sparrow’s culinary team incorporates locally grown Michigan foods and focuses on fresh, healthful dishes made from scratch.

For more information, contact the Sparrow Food & Nutrition Services Department: 517.364.2546 or visit sparrow.org/fans.