Sparrow named “High-Performing” by U.S. News & World Report

Sparrow has been named among the Best Hospitals in Southeastern Michigan, and earned a “high-performing” designation in nine specialty areas, according to a U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings for 2012-2013.

“Sparrow's vision of being a nationally recognized leader in quality and the Patient experience means we have a responsibility to take the lead in fundamentally transforming health care in Michigan,” said Sherry Taunt, Vice President of Quality & Performance Improvement. “Recognition such as this in nine of our specialty areas not only means we are providing excellent care for our community but gives us the building blocks we need to reach our goal of national recognition.”

The review of roughly 5,000 hospitals nationwide looked at Patient survival rate relative to other hospitals, nurse staffing, measures related to quality of care, work to reduce the occurrence of errors, and a hospital’s reputation amongst its peers.

ED Physicians, Residents practice HAZMAT skills

Sparrow Emergency Department Physicians and Residents practiced saving the life of an electrocuted child and stopping a dangerous chemical spill on June 28 at Delta Township Fire Station #1. The training featured high-tech equipment including life-like Patient simulators, HAZMAT gear, and the Sparrow LifeNet Air Medical Transport.

The goal is to ensure that trauma patients receive the highest level of quality emergency care from the time of an accident until the time of discharge from the ED.
Sparrow earns Gold Plus Award for Stroke Care

Sparrow recently received the Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award for Stroke care from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. Sparrow earned this honor for adhering to or exceeding strict scientific guidelines for stroke care for two consecutive years.

Sparrow features the region’s first comprehensive stroke treatment unit dedicated to ensuring stroke victims get fast care from a team of expert physicians at Sparrow, Michigan State University, and from independent practices in the Lansing area.

Sparrow’s journey toward High Reliability

Sparrow’s dedication to providing the best in Patient care has recently taken the form of Caregivers completing High Reliability Organization (HRO) training. HROs are organizations that constantly evolve—adjusting, evaluating, and improving safety measures so that even in high-risk industries, such as healthcare, serious safety events happen rarely, if at all. HRO training topics include Safety Culture Transformation, Cause Analysis, Process Improvement, and Critical Thinking Skills which help staff navigate uncertainty during critical times.

The Culture of Safety Initiative kicked off this year is also a part of the HRO program. In seeking to be an HRO, Sparrow continues to take steps like this that enable us to provide even greater safety for not only our Patients, but also our Caregivers.

Caregivers recently completing HRO training are:

Tina Gross – SSH Clinical Administration
Cathy Hallead – SCH Nursing Administration
Mariah Hesse – SCH Nursing Administration
Shari Heydenburg – Respiratory Therapy
Sherri Patterson – 8 South-Medical Specialties
Kathy Schaefer – Nursing Education
Amy Sjoberg – Risk Management
Pete Vestergaard – SIH Nursing Administration


Now you can use debit and credit cards in more Sparrow dining spots

Dining locations on the Sparrow Main Campus including the Sparrow Cafeteria, Court 1200 and the Lobby Café as well as the SPA are now accepting debit/credit cards.

This exciting improvement of Sparrow services will make dining and shopping more convenient for our Caregivers, Patients and visitors.

The roll-out of this new capability began at the Sparrow Main Campus dining locations on June 5 and 6 and extended to the SPA. The roll-out will continue to the St. Lawrence Gift Shop and the Sparrow Clinton Hospital cafeteria later this summer.

Also coming in the near future will be the ability for our benefit-eligible Caregivers to utilize their Sparrow ID cards for making purchases through payroll deduction. More details to come this summer.

Race for the health of it with Team Sparrow in upcoming event

Join Team Sparrow on Aug. 4 in the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes and we’ll send you free Team Sparrow gear to help you along the way.

Caregivers and their family members can participate by joining Team Sparrow and then walking, wheeling or running in any Sparrow-sponsored charity race this year. Help raise funds for local charities while showing your Sparrow pride, and we’ll send you free Team Sparrow gear, including T-shirts, water bottles and hats. You’ll get one item for each race you participate in, up to four items per person.

Upcoming Team Sparrow races in 2012 include Women Working Wonders (W3) 0K/5K/8K, Hike for Hospice, and Origami “Haunted” 5K Run/Walk/Wheel.

Inspired to join Team Sparrow? Visit sparrow.org/TeamSparrow for more information.
Sparrow Clinton Hospital honored by MHA for community wellness efforts

Sparrow Clinton Hospital in St. Johns was one of only four recipients of the 2012 Ludwig Community Benefit Award presented by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA). Sparrow Clinton earned this recognition for its ongoing Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative. Sparrow Clinton Hospital Foundation established a 25-member steering committee, secured a state Healthy Lifestyle Matching Grant, and organized a countywide awareness and engagement program.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by our peers for making a difference in our community,” said Ed Bruun, Sparrow Clinton Hospital CEO & President. “The Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative has become a catalyst for community lifestyle changes, which we hope will accelerate as more families participate in the programs offered by Sparrow Clinton Hospital and our partners.”

SMG North praised by CDC over handling of Vaccines for Children program

SMG North was recently selected for a rare visit by representatives from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control tied to the office’s excellent reputation in administering the Vaccines for Children program.

The office was chosen by the Ingham County Health Department for the visit “because they do such a good job following the required guidelines,” said Kathy Fitton, an immunization nurse with the county department.

The Vaccines for Children program distributes vaccines to offices free of charge for Patients who are uninsured or underinsured.

During the visit, SMG North was reviewed for vaccine storage and handling methods and various other guidelines. It passed with flying colors.

Communication Boards: Take time to make them work for you & the Sparrow Way!

Communication Boards, implemented in 2010 as part of The Sparrow Way, are there to help Caregivers keep track of information related to the five pillars of Sparrow: People, Service, Quality, Resources and Growth.

But to be truly useful, they need to reflect the specific needs of Caregivers and their Patients in any given unit.

Looking for ideas? The 7th floor took this project and ran with it. A quick glance gives Caregivers a snapshot of not only things going on around the system and in that department, but also where they’re at and where they need to go with their goals.

“Seven’s board is up-to-date, well-organized, and provides clear information that Caregivers can use to do their day to day work in a better way,” said Melissa Nufer-St. Clair, Senior Organizational Development Specialist in the LOD Department.

Unit Leaders also use communications boards to post information from partner departments and the Sparrow News. They’re just one more way Sparrow is working to lead in Patient care.

PECSH volunteers to serve our communities

If you’ve driven along M-52 near Webberville or M-100 near Grand Ledge lately you may have noticed highway adoption signs by the Professional Employee Council of Sparrow Hospital (PECSH).

PECSH started this project in October of last year and in doing so commits to clearing their sections at least three times each year of trash and recyclables.

“We really wanted a way to engage in our communities, and this seemed like a great chance to help out and put the Sparrow name out there for everyone to see as they drive by,” said Mary Perkins, BSN, RN, in the IP Adult Psych Unit at the St. Lawrence Campus.

In May, PESCH members collected nearly 40 bags of trash and more than 180 empty alcohol bottles that accumulated since October. The local community has been very supportive, coming out to talk to the volunteers and provide water while they work, and the volunteers have worked to educate the community about the dangers of drunken driving.

A clean up was scheduled for July 14, and another is planned on Sept. 30. If you are interested in volunteering, email Mary Perkins at mary.perkins@sparrow.org.

PECSH volunteers cleared nearly 40 bags of trash during a May cleanup along M-52.
Sparrow Health Classic a hole in one!

The Sparrow Health Classic returned to the beautiful Eagle Eye and Hawk Hollow Golf Courses on June 20. This annual event is a great day of golf for a wonderful cause—the health of our community!

This year’s event exceeded goals, raising more than $208,000 to benefit the areas of greatest need at Sparrow. Nearly 300 golfers, 44 sponsors and 50 volunteers beat the heat to help make the day a great success.

The Michigan PGA was back with pros on-site giving free pointers on the practice ranges prior to play. Competition was fierce for team prizes and contest hole awards. The golfers enjoyed their gift and Melting Moments ice cream along the course. Be sure to visit the Sparrow Foundation Facebook page to see photos from the event. And, mark your calendar—next year’s Health Classic will be June 19!

Open enrollment for voluntary benefits runs until July 27

Become eligible to win a laptop computer or Target gift card by meeting with a representative during the voluntary benefits open enrollment period. But hurry! Open enrollment only runs through Friday, July 27. There is a great addition to this year’s Benefits for Life voluntary benefits plan, a legal plan that provides professional legal help at affordable payroll deducted rates and services to help protect you from identity theft.

Schedule yourself for an enrollment session by visiting: myenrollmentschedule.com/sparrow or call 866.998.2915.

Got a story you’d like to share? E-mail your news tip to us at sparrownews@sparrow.org and we may include it in future editions.