iSparrow EMR system goes live

At Sparrow Medical Group (SMG) North, Rebecca Wolfe, M.D., (left) is among the first Sparrow physicians to use the new electronic medical record system. The new iSparrow electronic medical record (EMR) was implemented at SMG North, SMG Billing and the Outreach Laboratories. In November, the 24 Sparrow-employed physician practices will implement the scheduling and registration components of the EMR, and will then begin a site-by-site rollout of the clinical medical record.

≈ Loving our HUCs. On Aug. 17, Sparrow Health Unit Coordinators (HUCs) were treated to an outdoor barbecue and gifts in the north parking lot to thank them for their daily contributions to patient care. Enjoying the moment are, seated from left: Heather Hillsburg, Julie Vlick, Tyann Drake, LeAnne Sysak, Michelle Consiglio and Carla Bentley; standing, from left: Wendie Amon, Malinda Fields, Anne Leonard, Jamie Malik, Cheryl Curtain, Renee Bentley, Rose Thomas, Andrea Daniels, Monette Hardwick, Vernasta Roland and Amy Warr.
Scott Johnson, MD, was named to the Board of Governors of the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons at their annual meeting in August. Scott serves on the staff of Sparrow Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery.

We say goodbye to two longtime Sparrow nurses who have retired. Sue Godfrey, RN, retired after 34 years of service, most recently serving as director of women’s services. Linda Nemecek, RN, retired after 32 years, serving most recently as a performance improvement specialist. On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News offers our best wishes to Sue and Linda for a long and happy retirement.

On parade. Dozens of Sparrow associates and their children helped celebrate the 11th Annual African American Parade and Family Heritage Festival in downtown Lansing on Aug. 14. Sparrow’s float depicted a model of the Sparrow Tower and accompanying the float were a lively group of escorts wearing Sparrow green.

PHP to manage high-risk pool

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has selected Sparrow’s Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan to provide high-quality health pool coverage at affordable rates to Michigan residents with pre-existing medical conditions. PHP will manage a high-risk pool of chronically uninsured people under the Affordable Care Act, the federal health care reform law passed earlier this year.

“We are confident that our new members will find what existing PHP members have long known — that our approach ensures they receive high-quality clinical care and service from our extensive network of providers and hospitals,” said PHP President Scott Wilkerson.

The Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation will have regulatory oversight over the state-implemented pool, which will be funded entirely by subscriber premiums and an estimated $141 million in federal subsidies. The temporary pool will operate until Jan. 1, 2014, when federal law requires all insurers to accept individuals regardless of pre-existing conditions.

Legal residents with pre-existing conditions who have been uninsured for the previous six months will be eligible to enroll. Enrollment is scheduled to begin Aug. 31, and coverage is slated to start Oct. 1.

Michigan consumers interested in detailed enrollment, benefit and eligibility information can contact PHP toll-free by calling 1.877.459.3113 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or go to PHP’s website at phpmm.org.

Numerous

1,466,024

Number of miles driven by Sparrow Regional Laboratories couriers in the last 12 months.
On parade.

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Memorial honors volunteer.

Longtime Sparrow volunteer Robert Campbell was honored at a dedication for the rose gardens in front of the St. Lawrence campus west entrance. For many years, Campbell, who died in 2009, planted and tended the roses, and provided fresh cut flowers to residents of Sparrow’s Hospice House of Mid-Michigan. The June dedication ceremony coordinated by the Sparrow Foundation, included the placing of a granite stele, and a promise to maintain the gardens for the pleasure of patients and their families.

Chinese pharmacists visit.

From left, Chinese pharmacists Hu Jue and Shao Hua observe Sparrow clinical pharmacist Denise Pratt (far right) with patient Roy Michell in the anti-coagulation clinic. The two visiting pharmacists from Jiangsu Province in eastern China spent several days at Sparrow in August to learn more about antibiotic management. Hua and Jue said they were especially impressed with Sparrow’s Pharmacy for efficiently sorting prescriptions and getting them to patients. They described Lansing as “comfortable, quiet and clean, with beautiful houses, and when asked if there were any surprises on the visit, Shao Hua said “Everything is a surprise. The most surprise is we went shopping last night and most of the items we saw were made in China.”

“Saving Mohammed” documentary to air

The Big Ten Network has scheduled the airing of “Saving Mohammed,” a documentary that tells the story of an Iraqi boy with severe burn scars who was brought to mid-Michigan by a U.S. Army Major David Howell, and received corrective surgery at Sparrow Hospital from Dr. Edward Lanigan. “Saving Mohammed” will debut on the Big Ten Network on Sept. 23 at noon, Sept. 24 at 3 a.m., Sept. 30 at noon and Sept. 31 at 3 a.m.

You can also go to www.msutoday.msu.edu to view segments of the documentary.

Need a volunteer?

September marks the beginning of the 2010 Sparrow volunteer recruitment blitz, and while the volunteer department has many opportunities available for individuals looking to give their time and energy to Sparrow, it is also a time to make sure that departments have the support they need to provide quality care.

If you are interested in securing the services of volunteers in your department, contact the Volunteer Services Office at ext. 43606 and request a Volunteer Service Request Form. The form includes questions to help departments decide what type of volunteer services are best suited to help departments maximize their potential. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Volunteer Office, ext. 43606, option 5.
Sparrow family enjoys steamy day at the ballpark

The weather was warm and muggy, but the beverages were cold, the chips were crispy and the hot dogs were fresh, at the third annual “Sparrow Day at the Ballpark” at Lansing’s Cooley Law School Stadium. More than 3,200 complimentary tickets were distributed to Sparrow family members for the game between the hometown Lansing Lugnuts and the Dyton Dragons on Aug. 29.

The Sparrow team dominated the non-baseball action. Cancer Center associate Chris Holtham threw out the first pitch, Cancer Center associate Sandy Mazuchowski, RN, sang the National Anthem, and the first class of Sparrow “Super Heroes” were introduced before the game began.

All in all, the event was another great success, and the ballgame was pretty good too, with the Lugnuts blasting three home runs to defeat the Dragons, 8-3.