Sports Injury Clinic reopens for fall prep season

Sparrow’s free Saturday Injury Clinic reopened Aug. 20 for the start of another fall prep sports season.

The clinic provides free injury assessments for middle, high school and college athletes by sports-trained orthopedic surgeons, primary care physicians and certified athletic trainers.

It’s a great place to go for parents whose kids have an injury that perhaps can’t wait to be checked the following week.

The clinic is held 9-11:30 a.m. every Saturday (except Thanksgiving weekend) until Dec. 10 at the Sparrow Health Science Pavilion (adjacent to the Michigan Athletic Club), 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. No appointment is necessary.

Sparrow Super Heroes become superstars at Lugnuts game

The lineup was packed from top to bottom with a team that could rival any Caregivers around.

The Annual Sparrow Day at the Lansing Lugnuts boasted perfect weather, a good game (a Lugnuts victory), and time to honor 12 Sparrow Super Heroes nominated by their peers for extraordinary caring and devotion to their jobs.

Among those honored were Critical Care RN Shellie Bates; Billy Furlong, an RN/BSN at Sparrow Home Care; Joyce Gilbert, a patient care technician at Sparrow St. Lawrence; Nyla Goggins of Environmental Services; and Mariah Hesse, medical-surgical coordinator at Sparrow Clinton Hospital.

Other Super Heroes were Sparrow volunteer J.J. Jackson; Safety Administrator Jeffrey Kay; Jennifer Koresky, a physical therapist at Outpatient Rehab in Williamston; Carol Littlejohn, a Sparrow phlebotomist; Michael McAlvey, MD, a physician at Okemos SMG; Debbie Miller, an RN at the Senior Health Center at Sparrow St. Lawrence; and Mary Whitelock, an RN at Sparrow Ionia.
Sparrow adopts uniform dress code to improve patient satisfaction

Starting this month, Sparrow will begin a systemwide switch to a standard uniform dress code policy that means Caregivers in the same grouping will all wear the same color scrubs. A revised professional appearance policy has been approved and will be introduced in September.

The switch to standard uniform color scrubs will:

» Allow patients and visitors to easily distinguish nurses, PCT’s and other Caregivers at just a glance
» Improve safety and quality by allowing physicians and other staff to quickly recognize personnel.
» Improve patient satisfaction by addressing patient care problems more quickly because of ease of Caregiver identification.

By making this change Sparrow joins hospitals nationwide that have switched to standard color uniforms in an effort to improve patient satisfaction, such as the Cleveland Clinic and University of Michigan Health System.

The switch will save Caregivers money by initially providing free scrubs or reimbursing costs. Soon, Caregivers will have a quick and easy online ordering system. The online ordering system will benefit Caregivers with a 24/7/365 availability of discounted scrubs and hassle-free payroll deduction.

A team of Caregivers, MNA leaders, and UAW representatives worked together to recommend uniform colors. That team chose to create eight color uniform groupings to minimize patient confusion.

New uniform colors are:

Khaki (light brown) for unit-based Caregivers such as patient care technicians, emergency medical technicians, dialysis technicians, psychiatric technicians and medical assistants.

Hunter Green Registered Nurses.

Chocolate (dark brown) will be worn by non-unit based Caregivers such as phlebotomists, transport and sitters.

Navy Blue for environmental services Caregivers.

Wine (deep red) for respiratory therapists, radiation therapists, and imaging Caregivers.

Black and White will continue to be the standard uniform colors for all food and nutrition Caregivers.

Black Polo Shirts and khaki pants will be worn by health unit coordinators, patient representatives and other administrative support Caregivers.

Dark Green Polo Shirts and khaki pants will be worn by physical therapists, occupational and other therapists.

Ceil Blue (traditional light blue) will continue to be the standard color for surgical Caregivers

Consistent with this change, tops and jackets will have the Sparrow logo on them and only plain black or white shirts can be worn under tops. All scrub tops, bottoms and jackets must be the same color. Caregivers in pediatrics may wear the approved “kids-friendly” tops and jackets as an alternative to the published uniform colors.

Patients may continue to see some physicians and some Caregivers wearing a white lab coat when rounding or providing inpatient care.

Mark your calendar

» The eighth annual W3 races are just around the corner, on Sept. 11. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. in the Sparrow Cancer Center parking lot. New this year is the addition of an 8k race, combined with the traditional 5k. Since 2002, the Sparrow Foundation’s Women Working Wonders (W3) has raised more than $700,000 to support the health needs of mid-Michigan women. Get details at sparrow.org/w3race.

» The Sparrow Foundation’s Hike for Hospice is Sunday, Oct. 2, at Granger Meadows Park in Lansing, between U.S. 27 and Wood Road, south of E. State Road. This special event – which features music, food and kids’ activities – takes time to honor those that have ended life’s journey. The 5k walk benefits Sparrow Hospice to ensure the future of compassionate care for our loved ones.
FACT SHEET ABOUT NEW SCRUBS:

» Sparrow will initially provide three tops and three bottoms at no cost to full-time UAW represented Caregivers.

» Two tops and two bottoms will initially be provided at no cost to part-time and per diem Caregivers.

» MNA/PECSH-represented Caregivers will receive a one-time reimbursement of up to $180, or the equivalent retail value of scrubs through our vendor at no cost to the Caregiver.

» Order forms are available at SPA for Caregivers who know their size.

» Caregivers will soon be able to order new scrubs online at a discounted rate and pay for them with a hassle-free payroll deduction.

In addition, Sparrow is introducing a revised professional appearance policy to ensure Caregivers wear attire appropriate for a hospital environment. Changes to the new policy include:

» Blue denim jeans are prohibited

» Open-toed shoes will not be permitted in patient care areas.

The new standard uniform policy and revised professional appearance policy are exciting steps that will allow Sparrow’s 7,500 Caregivers and 2,000 volunteers to project a professional and consistent workforce image at the two Lansing campuses, and hospitals in St. Johns, Ionia, Carson City and dozens of satellite care centers.

Sparrow Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Sparrow Foundation is proud to welcome six new members to its 25-person Board of Directors. Several of the new additions to the Board of Directors have been longtime supporters and board members of other community outreach programs. Each new member will have the opportunity to serve three separate three-year terms. These six members are: Patrick Gillespie, Gillespie Group founder and President; Todd Granger, Granger III & Associates Financial Assets Manager LLC; Judith Herbert, community volunteer; Patricia Lloyd Barnes, Capitol National Bank Senior VP of Commercial Lending and Healthcare Division Manager; Patrick McPharlin, MSU Federal Credit Union President/CEO; and G. Christine Metts (Dowding), Dowding Industries CEO.

The Sparrow Foundation is excited to be able to add such experienced and passionate members who are dedicated to serving their community.

Get more content online

For more Sparrow News content, visit sparrow.org/mysparrowassociates. Scroll down to “Sparrow news” and click on “Additional online content.” You’ll see stories and photos on:

» Enroll Michigan news conference

» Judy Hubler retirement tea

» Carson City Founder’s Day

Christian Sande, a transport lift team Caregiver, attends a sizing session in the Sparrow Professional Building sponsored by official vendor Custom Embroidery Plus. Sande will wear chocolate (dark brown) scrubs as part of Sparrow’s new standard color uniform policy.
Surprised nurse is Sparrow’s fourth DAISY award winner

The nurses of 7 Neumann were huddled in a conference room for a staff meeting when hospital nursing leaders made a surprise appearance. They were there to honor Natalia Wong, named the fourth winner at Sparrow this year of the DAISY award, presented to a deserving nurse. A surprised Wong was lauded as caring very deeply for patients and held in high regard by co-workers.

“Her caring and professional demeanor makes her stand out among her peers,” said Meseret Gebissa, Manager of Orthopedics/Neurosurgery, who was joined by Chief Nursing Officer Elizabeth Henry and Carol A. Dwyer, Vice President of Nursing, among others.

A modest Wong said, “Most of the nurses here deserve it.”

The DAISY Award grew out of the national DAISY Foundation, created by a family overwhelmed by the skilled and compassionate nurses who cared for their late son.

The award is a way to recognize the contribution and value of nurses. It is presented bi-monthly at Sparrow.

Previous winners at Sparrow this year were Courtney Miller, of Pediatric ICU; Marcella Williams of 7 South; and ShengLin Cherng of 5 West.

Winners receive a certificate, a DAISY pin, and a beautiful serpentine stone sculpture carved by a tribe in Zimbabwe.

Use of patient restraints shows steep decline

Sparrow has made marked improvement in respecting patient’s rights by decreasing the utilization of restraints.

The total number of patients in restraints dropped from an average of 396 in the first quarter of 2010 to 121 patients restrained in first quarter 2011, and the decline has continued.

The total number of hours patients were in restraints also decreased by a huge margin in the same period. (119,091 hours in first quarter 2010 compared with 4,527 hours in first quarter 2011)

The improvements came after a Sparrow interdisciplinary team developed a performance improvement plan to address the high use of restraints and transform the culture of restraint use in our Critical Care Units. The plan was accompanied by clear expectations and education to all staff.

“It used to be a ‘standard of care’ for all ventilated patients to be restrained. The Critical Care Team makes it a priority to do everything possible to keep our patients restraint free,” said Kim Alexander, Director of Critical Care Services.

Restraints were perceived historically to keep patients safe. Patients often become more agitated with restraints, however. Alternative ways the Critical Care team addresses safety concerns are: more frequent rounding, speaking calmly with patients, and encouraging family involvement, among other things.