



Practice Notes:

Heart and Vascular Center receives excellence designation from Blues

Sparrow's Heart and Vascular Center has received the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Surgery and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) Cardiac Center of Excellence designation. BCBSM established the program to help Blues members make informed choices about where to go to receive high quality cardiac care.

Pilot program targets chest pain

Sparrow's Emergency Department under the medical directorship of **Tony Briningstool, MD**, has begun a pilot program that offers patients with chest pain immediate medical evaluation. Patients are monitored in an observation unit without admission to the hospital. The program gives patients a fast, accurate diagnosis, so they go home reassured they did not have a heart attack, or are admitted for care, if necessary.

Sign legibly, print, or use name stamp

Jokes about physicians and their handwriting are commonplace, but in truth, legibility of medical records is a serious issue. If your signature is illegible, please print your name under your signature. Residents are urged to use their name stamps.

In-house diets improve outcomes

Dietitians from Sparrow's Food and Nutrition (FANS) Services recently updated the medical diets and furnished each unit with a copy. There are 18 primary diets, with more than a dozen modifiers. This enables physicians to easily customize diets to maximize patient outcomes. One change is that surgical soft diet and ostomy diet are no longer listed. They have been merged with the low fiber diet. The tube-feeding formularies have also been updated. For more information, contact the FANS Office, 364-2456.



Sparrow President Dennis Swan and Michigan State University President Lou Anna K. Simon shake hands after signing a formal agreement between Sparrow and MSU's human health colleges. The pact includes formation of a Joint Academic Clinical Enterprise committee to achieve goals of the collaboration.

Dr. Basson to lead MSU Surgery Dept.

Marc D. Basson, MD, is the newly named chairperson, Department of Surgery, Michigan State University. Most recently Dr. Basson served as Chief of Surgery at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center. Dr. Basson says his first priority will be to recruit several new doctors to the region who can excel at both clinical work and research.

Doctors' Day

March 30 is Doctors' Day, a day to celebrate the efforts of our medical staff. Please take a moment to view the physician appreciation stars hung in the skywalk between Sparrow Hospital and the Sparrow Professional Building. These stars are submitted by associates, volunteers and other physicians as a tribute to the quality, compassionate care our physicians provide on a daily basis.

Obituary – With my deepest regrets, I announce the death of **Joseph Sheets, M.D.**, on Feb. 25 at age 77. A legendary ob-gyn specialist, Dr. Sheets co-founded the Physicians Health Plan and, in 2004, received the Sparrow Founders' Award. In 2006, he was one of the inaugural inductees into the Sparrow Physicians Hall of Fame. On behalf of our medical staff, I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He will be terribly missed by us all.



Please contact me with your thoughts, comments and ideas regarding this issue, or for any subjects featured in *Sparrow Physician*. Dawn Springer, MD, Chief of the Medical Staff dawn.springer@sparrow.org