



# Phelps Hospital

## Weekly Nursing Newsletter

### April 24, 2020



We have been treating COVID-19 patients here at Phelps Hospital for over 6 weeks. The staff have been amazing in caring for our community during this crisis. Everyone (within the hospital and community) recognizes how hard you are working to take care of all our patients.

**Relaxation room:** The Boardroom on the C-Level has been transformed into a “**Relaxation Room**” that is open all day (except 11p-12a for cleaning). This room has reclining chairs, snacks, a relaxing video, and soothing music playing in a low lit relaxing atmosphere. It is open for anyone who would like some time away during their shift.

**Northwell’s Emotional Support Resource Center** is here to provide assistance and reassurance to you and your loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts trained in emotional well-being will answer questions, provide resources, or just listen. Call the 24/7 Emotional Support Resource Center at 516-344-4155. This service is free and 100% confidential. Your information will not be shared with your manager, colleagues or Northwell Human Resources.

**Mask Manager:** Mask Manager has moved to the Main ICU Visitor Lounge.  
To contact: Call Vocera and ask for Mask Manager.

#### **How to Wear the Blue (Impervious) Gown -**

The blue (impervious) gown will be placed over the yellow (isolation) gown when there is a risk of blood or body fluid including aerosolizing procedures such as intubation/extubation. Discard the impervious gown after use. Retain the isolation gown.

#### **How to Request a Blue (Impervious) Gown -**

The staff member must provide his/her name to the Mask Manager when requesting a blue gown, similar to the process of obtaining an N95 mask.

#### **Great Job:**

Our Senior Leaders would like to thank the staff involved with locating the family of a patient on 4 North who was recently admitted to the hospital, but was missing since February. Individuals from nursing, case management and the medical staff worked closely together to achieve this important outcome that helped to reunite a patient and bring comfort to the family through the knowledge that the patient had been safely found.

**Safe Medication Practice:** It was communicated that there have been incidences of needle stick injuries after the subcutaneous administration of the medication Kineret (Anakinra) in the Northwell system. .

Kineret is an interleukin-1 receptor antagonist that is being administered in the treatment of our Covid-19 patients. It is administered as frequently as four times per day. Kineret comes from the Pharmacy in its own pre-filled glass syringe with an attached 27 gauge needle and is stored in the medication refrigerator on the unit.

**There is no safety guard to cover the needle** after the medication is administered. Unfortunately, this med comes from the manufacturer with a needle that is not a Luer lock needle, so it cannot be replaced. In order to minimize the risk of needle stick, **nurses should NOT recap the needle** after administration. The needle/syringe must be carefully discarded in a sharps container after use.

**Devices Available for Patient Care and Communication:**

A variety of technical devices are now available to enhance the patient care and medical care experience:

*iPads – one device is available on each unit for patient communication with family.*

*Pad-In-Motion Tablets – four devices have been rolled out as a pilot for patient education, entertainment, and communication with family.* The plan over time is to install more of these devices in the inpatient rooms.

*Echo Show – available on 2C & 2N for nursing drop in visits for patient monitoring.* Installment pending on 4N. More on order for all patient units.

*Echo Show - four devices are available for use as tele-sitting monitors in rooms that do not have brackets and when all the other mobile tele-sitter cameras from Avasure are in use.*

*Fire Tablets – for physician drop in visits with any Echo Show installed in a patient room.*

**All of the equipment can be easily sanitized using the purple top wipes. These devices were the result of suggestions made to Nursing Leadership by the nursing staff.**

**Catholic Priest:** Father Ron Lemmert makes rounds during the day and checks on newly admitted patients. He is unable to enter the COVID rooms for a variety of reasons, but you may see him blessing patients from the doorway to the room.

Many times families ask for a priest to administer “last rights” or to be “anointed” If this occurs, he will speak to these families over the phone and explain that Pope Francis has declared that due to the Corona Virus priests don’t have to be present to offer prayers for those who are gravely ill or in danger of dying. If the patient is the one who asks, he will also speak to patients by phone.

Thanks for your understanding. We are fortunate to have him. He also is very happy to pray with staff.  
Stay strong, be well.  
Phyllis Vonderheide

We welcome any solutions, ideas, suggestions, shout outs, etc. that may be assisting you to get your job done and get through your shift. We also welcome any mentions of “Humanism Stories” that you saw taking place in the hospital with any department. Please send any information to Alicia Mulvena, [amulvena@northwell.edu](mailto:amulvena@northwell.edu).

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