

STATE-OF-THE-ART MRI UNIT ARRIVES AT RCH!



RCH Radiology Director, Karen Harris, and MRI Tech, Randy Richmeier, are shown looking through the bore of the new MRI moments after it was placed.

The magnet for RCH's new MRI & Nuclear Medicine suite arrived on-site Wednesday, January 4. The 4 ½ ton magnet, known in the industry as the OR200, is the core of the Toshiba built Vantage Titan Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit and it is the only one of its kind in Kansas or Missouri.

Selected for its imaging prowess as well as patient comfort, the Vantage Titan features an extra large bore, making it more comfortable for patients big and tall or patients who are anxious in confined spaces. The new MRI & Nuclear Medicine suite will be also equipped with an overhead video screen so patients can view pictures or slide shows of their own choosing while receiving services. Special noise reduction elements are also planned for the suite to reduce stress and make the experience as comfortable as possible.

Calibration of the various coils in the magnet is expected to take from 4 to 6 weeks. After the calibrations and necessary certifications are completed the unit will be ready to go operational. A grand-opening ceremony is tentatively planned for late-February.

Benefits for patients of RCH's new MRI & Nuclear Medicine suite include quicker scheduling, lessened stress, and the convenience of money and time saved by receiving services close to home.

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“When patients benefit, the county benefits by keeping Rooks County dollars in Rooks County. For people from surrounding counties for whom a trip to a large regional center would be even more inconvenient, time consuming and expensive, they now have another option of keeping their dollars closer to home as well,” explained RCH CEO, Mike Sinclair.

The opening of the new MRI & Nuclear Medicine suite will conclude one portion of RCH’s recent expansion plans. The next major hospital expansion is expected to include new patient rooms and a Rehabilitation Center for Physical Therapy featuring a zero-entry hydro-therapy pool.

The hospital’s expansion serves to fulfill RCH’s mission to provide the most advanced health care available to residents of Rooks County and beyond. For more information on these endeavors, contact Eric Sumearll 785-688-4428.

Open enrollment for private health insurance continues until Jan 31, the coverage won't take affect until either Feb. 1 or Mar 1, depending on when you enroll. Let RCH's Certified Application Counselor, Cricket Rice, help you find all the options available. The service is FREE! Call Cricket at 785-688-4443 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



RCH Employee Spotlight

Name: **Ruth Fouts**

RCH Team: **Outpatient/Surgery Dept.**

Start date at RCH: December 14, 2016

Ruth Fouts is our new part-time scrub tech and comes to us from Hays Medical Center.

She has one son, Brandon, his wife Crystal and daughter Kylie.

Ruth enjoys home improvements.

Welcome Ruth!



RCH RANKED AMONG TOP 50 U.S. HOSPITALS WITH LOWEST RATE OF PATIENT READMISSIONS

The results of a national hospital review ranks Rooks County Health Center (RCH) as tied for 39th out of 5,627 hospitals in the country for having the lowest rate of patient readmissions. The data was accumulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and published by Becker's Hospital Review. CMS guidelines use a hospital's percentage of unplanned readmissions to gauge its efficiency in such areas as preventing complications arising from a hospital stay, providing clear instructions to the patient upon discharge after a stay and ensuring a smooth transition from the hospital back to the patient's home.

An added note to this honor is the fact that RCH is the only critical access hospital to be named. All other hospitals honored are major regional or specialty surgery hospitals. Two specialty surgery hospitals, Kansas Spine & Specialty Hospital and Kansas Surgery & Recovery Center, both located in Wichita were also ranked for a total of three Kansas hospitals to make the list.

Critical access hospitals located in rural regions like RCH normally experience higher rates of readmissions than the national average due to high percentages of the population being Medicare beneficiaries, older and with lower incomes. This information, along with the fact that several of the other hospitals listed don't even have emergency rooms, places RCH at a significant disadvantage when reviewing hospitals for the rate of patient readmissions. Overcoming these disadvantages and being ranked among the top 50 hospitals in the United States illustrates how RCH's recognition is even more profound.

RCH CEO, Mike Sinclair, credits the success to the hospital's robust quality assurance program as well as the staff-driven culture of caring, compassion and striving for excellence.

"We strive to exceed the expectations of every patient we treat. To ensure that the highest quality of care is delivered, we measure many care indicators including preventing complications, patient safety, timeliness of care and providing clear discharge instructions."

Sinclair conceded that inclusion on the list is extremely satisfying to RCH administration and staff because it is a testament to the effectiveness of the hospital's overall quality assurance program and the caring culture embraced by every staff member.

Stephanie Bjornstad, RN and RCH Quality Coordinator agrees, "All departments at the hospital constantly measure and analyze data to see where they can improve. We compare ourselves to state and multi-state groups. If we find an area for improvement the staff embraces the challenge and if needed has the full support and direction of the hospital board to back them up to make necessary changes."

According to Bjornstad the staff of RCH is dedicated to the goal of being the best hospital in the state if not the nation. "We are doing great things at RCH every day and this just happens to be one that caught national attention."

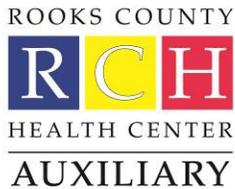
"I use this hospital for all my medical needs...I don't want to go anywhere else. I recommend this hospital every chance I get."
- Plainville Patient



Human Resource News

JOB OPENINGS:

- Outpatient Nurse
- Wound Care RN
- HIS/Project Analyst
- Diabetes Education Coordinator
- Cook
- PRN Admissions Clerk



JUST A REMINDER that it is time for **RCH Auxiliary's Annual Membership Drive!** To renew a membership or to join, a membership fee of **\$5 per year or \$100 lifetime membership** is requested.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible. Dues can be submitted to Kandie Morain, Nadine Blair at the gift shop, or mailed to RCH Auxiliary, Attn: Kandie Morain, PO Box 389, Plainville, KS 67663.

Congratulations Steve Law!
He is the January Employee of the Month! Steve was nominated by Tracy Rudman. Steve has worked at RCH as the IT Director since January 2008.



RCH CELEBRATES NEW YEAR'S BABY 2017

Bright, bouncy and beautiful Jackson Grabbe was the first baby born at RCH in 2017! The proud parents are Julie and John Grabbe of Schoenchen, KS. This adorable little boy entered the world on January 6th at 4:06 a.m. weighing 7 lbs, 13 oz. Dr. Beth Oller was the attending physician.

The RCH Auxiliary once again sponsored the annual New Year's Baby Shower and presented the family with gift baskets containing baby wipes, diapers, toys, clothes, lotions, blankets and handmade crocheted cap and quilt.

Although residents of Ellis County, both Julie and John remarked that RCH was their first choice for delivery.

When asked to describe the quality of care she received at RCH, Julie's immediate response was "Oh my God, it was great!" The first time mother said that her desire for a natural childbirth was a major factor in choosing RCH. Having heard of the RCH doula service provided by Avry St. Peter, Julie knew that Rooks County was where she wanted to have her baby. Describing her birthing team, which included RNs Tawney Baxter and Lindsey Bollig as well as Avry and Dr. Beth, Julie was overwhelmed with the team's knowledge, care, competency and encouragement.

The family wishes to extend their thanks for the kindness and generosity of the Auxiliary for the shower gifts.



The first Quarterly Staff Meeting of the year will be held in the RCH Cafeteria at 8am and 2pm on January 26.

QUARTERLY REGULATORY MEETINGS **Friday, January 27th**

All Meetings will be held in the HIM Conference Room

8:00 Quarterly Quality:

This Quarter:

Dietary, Surgery, Sterile Processing, Wound Care,
PACU, Outpatient Services, Radiology, Nursing,
Rehab Departments: PT/OT/ST, Laboratory,
Pharmacy, Admissions, Cardiac Rehab

9:15 Quarterly Infection Prevention

9:45 Quarterly Utilization Review

10:00 Quarterly Privacy Oversight

10:20 Quarterly Corporate Compliance

10:30 Quarterly Risk Management

After the Quality Meeting, all meetings will run consecutively and meeting times will be approximate. The start of all meetings will be announced overhead so those people can arrive at the appropriate time.

 Lunch Menu 

Sunday, January 15

Roast beef dinner, mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetable, tossed salad, pie

Monday, January 16

Baked potato bar, tossed salad, peanut butter sheetcake

Tuesday, January 17

Mexican lasagna, corn chips, tossed salad, layered pudding dessert

Wednesday, January 18

Legend beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetable, cake

Thursday, January 19

Chicken Philly, sweet potato fries, tossed salad, fruit pizza

Friday, January 20

Loaded vegetable soup, deli sandwich, brownies

Saturday, January 21

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetable, ice cream/cake

*The rest of the menu was not available.

Mark your calendar!
The next Blood Drive will be held
Thursday, Feb 16 from 11 to 5 at the
Plainville K of C Hall.