



St. Mary's Hospital

MedStar Health

NEWS RELEASE

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St. Mary's Hospital Launches Electronic Monitoring System in Intensive Care Center

St. Mary's Hospital went live with its new eCare system this month, which is an electronic monitoring technology in the hospital's Intensive Care Center (ICC). The program complements local care utilizing critical care physicians and nurses based at Christiana Care Health System through a monitoring center in Delaware.

The system closely watches patient conditions from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. during the week and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays. This is done electronically utilizing video and audio technology combined with intelligent monitoring and alarm systems in hopes of improving survival rates, creating shorter hospital stays and reducing costs.

While maintaining patient privacy, the remote center closely monitors patients' vital signs, labs and x-rays that stream in. The technology can video in on the patient when called to assess any physical change. The eCare system can immediately alert local caregivers, recommending corrective action. This is not a substitute for on-site staff. It is a collaboration of direct care providers and remote critical clinicians working together on our ICC patients' behalf.

"The collaboration required for development of this program was of great benefit to all involved," said Dana Smith-Ruggles, director of ICC, Telemetry and 3 Central. St. Mary's is one of six hospitals in the Maryland eCare network and the third to roll out the program. This is the only such partnership in the state to establish this model of care for patients. In February, the Maryland eCare initiative was chosen as a semi-finalist in the "Innovative Approaches to the Delivery of Healthcare" category from the Adaptive Business Leaders (ABL) Organization.

"We are very excited about all the possibilities of our combined knowledge and skills," said Smith-Ruggles.

St. Mary's Hospital's ICC patients will benefit by:

- Board certified physicians specializing in critical care are staffing the eCare remote monitors each night for 12 hours and all day on weekends and holidays
- Skilled critical care nurses are on the eCare remote monitors 24/7, every day
- Hospital nurses, respiratory therapists and physicians, including our intensivist, will work together to provide enhanced assessments, planning and care delivery
- Our ICC will now be able to treat more of our patients in the county

For more information on the Maryland eCare network, visit www.marylandecare.org.

About St. Mary's Hospital

St. Mary's Hospital is a 103-bed, full-service hospital, delivering state-of-the-art emergency, acute inpatient and outpatient care. With innovative technology and a dedication to excellence, the St. Mary's staff is committed to providing quality medical care with a compassionate touch. As an integral partner in providing a seamless continuum of care, St. Mary's Hospital takes pride in numerous programs and services.

About MedStar Health

MedStar Health is a \$3.8 billion non-profit healthcare organization and a community-based network of nine hospitals and other healthcare services across Maryland and in the Washington, D.C., region. The hospitals, which include both teaching and community facilities, are Franklin Square Hospital Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Harbor Hospital, Montgomery General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital in Maryland, and Georgetown University Hospital, National Rehabilitation Hospital and Washington Hospital Center in the District of Columbia.

MedStar Health is based in Columbia, Maryland, and as the region's largest healthcare system, it is also one of the largest employers with 26,000 employees and more than 5,300 affiliated physicians, all of whom support MedStar Health's patient-first philosophy that combines care, compassion and clinical excellence with an emphasis on customer service. We prove this every day with more than 166,000 inpatient admissions and more than 1.6 million outpatient visits each year.

MedStar Health's areas of clinical excellence include cardiology, cardiac surgery, oncology services, rehabilitation, neurosciences, orthopedic surgery, women's services, and emergency and trauma services. We have comprehensive services including primary, urgent and sub acute care, medical education and research. Our other health-related services include assisted living, home health and long-term care. We also operate nursing homes, senior housing, adult day care, rehabilitation and ambulatory centers, as well as maintain MedStar Physician Partners, a comprehensive physician network in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region.

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