

PARENTERAL PATHWAYS

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CoxHealth's Ambulatory Infusion Center

Center gives patients a variety of services



Unless you are someone working in CoxHealth's Ambulatory Infusion Center (AIC) or a patient visiting the center, you may not know just exactly what it is. Ambulatory infusion centers are clinic type settings specializing in providing infusion therapy to non-institutionalized patients. The AIC is based on the idea of the patient coming to this setting to receive a one time medication infusion or a schedule of doses of medication. It is where they can also come to receive their first dose of

medication and initial training of home care medications. The Cox Health Ambulatory Infusion Center is the only such center in Springfield and is managed and staffed by Home Parenteral Services.

The ambulatory infusion center arose from a desire to decrease costs associated with

hospital stays as well as from patient pressure to return home and to work as early as possible. Centers also arose to meet the needs of infusion patients with Medicare Part D. Ben Foster, nurse manager of Cox AIC says, "The AIC is another spoke in the wheel of the hospital system. It's truly another needed service the hospital can provide." Ben also gave an example of how the AIC is able to work together with the hospital. "The hospital was full, no beds were available and they had a patient that needed antibiotics right away.

The AIC was able to give the patient her first dose before the hospital could admit her." The center has seen tremendous growth since starting in November. There were 224 patients in November and in January the center had 425 patients.

Patients visiting the AIC recline in 20 lounge chairs or hospital beds, and receive their IV medications while watching videos or TV, or reading books or magazines. Many take the opportunity to simply sleep or relax as specially trained infusion nurses closely monitor their care and provide each



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CoxHealth's Ambulatory Infusion Center *continued*

patient with personal attention throughout the visit. Lynne Hilton, a patient at the AIC, said while she would rather be well and not have to be receiving infusions, the AIC has been great. "The staff is so nice. They take such good care of me," said Hilton.

The AIC is more affordable for both the patient and the insurance carrier as opposed to treatment in a hospital. The new Medicare Part D plan has limited coverage for injectable medications, however the center provides a site

for Medicare patients to receive one-time injections or scheduled dosing of medications, such as daily or twice daily I.V. antibiotics.

The coverage for this service falls under Medicare Part B and allows the patient to be at home and travel to the AIC for doses.

Most private insurance carriers cover infusion therapies provided by the center as well. Cox Health's Ambulatory Infusion Center allows patients and their primary care physicians greater control in scheduling an appointment that is conveni-

ent for them, without having to be admitted to the hospital or visit the emergency room, while retaining the convenience of on-site access to CoxHealth's radiology, laboratory services and pharmacy. The new expanded hours for the AIC are 7am to 7:30pm, 7 days a week. Due to the extended hours of service, patients can receive therapies ranging from simple injections to multi-hour infusions. CoxHealth Ambulatory Infusion Center is located inside the lower level of the

Wheeler Heart and Vascular Center at 3800 S. National Ave. Their services include IV antibiotics, IV fluids, specialty pharmacy IV medications, blood products, and PICC line placement. Medicare (including part B), Medicaid and private insurance are accepted. For direct contact with the center, call 417/269-2070. For general inquiries and questions, call 417/269-0650.

Power Picc and Port seeing more use by doctors

It is estimated that at least 98% of patients who enter the hospital will require some type of venous access device. The overall safety and use of venous access devices in the acute care setting is well known, however new technology has been introduced to improve outcomes for inpatients that has caused some uncertainty for home care patients and staff.

Manufacturers recommend that the maximum pressure

exerted on venous access device is 25 PSI. Radiology utilizes a power injector for IV contrast material that exerts 300 PSI.

Recently, Power Lines (PICC's, Hickman, Ports) were introduced for patients in the acute care setting. These devices are easily identifiable, they are typically purple in color, have maximum PSI identified on the catheter and can withstand the pressure exerted from the



power injector.

When a patient is discharged for home care, these venous devices

Power Picc and Port seeing more use by doctors *continued*



require the same care, maintenance and flushing protocols as traditional venous access devices. PICC's and tunneled catheters are designed the same as the traditional lines with the exception of their color which is purple. The ports are designed in a triangular shape and have palpation points for easier definition, however they require the same non-coring needle as traditional ports. If they are to be utilized for contrast material in the hospital they will require a special non-

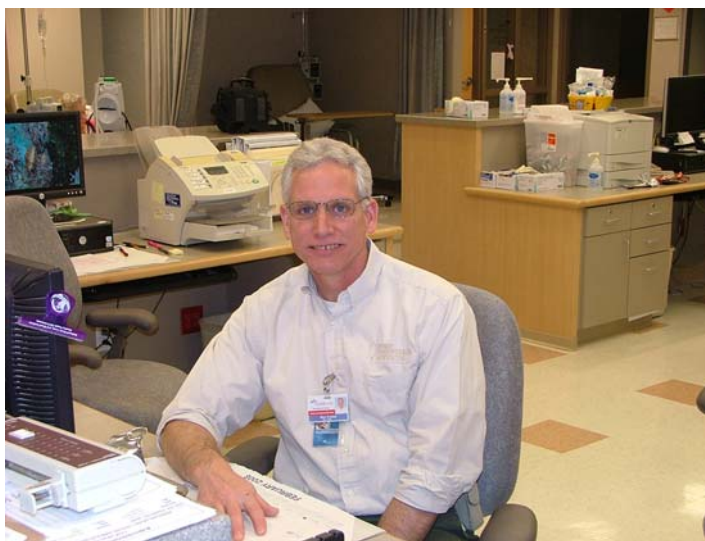
coring needle with an extension that will tolerate the power injector. Currently there are only a small amount of companies producing power lines, but there will be an increase due to the demand of procedures requiring a high psi of contrast material. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 800-637-9201.

Home Parenteral Services' employee takes on new role

CoxHealth's Ambulatory Infusion Center sees patients come and go for infusions all day long. Managing the busy center is no easy task, but for Ben Foster, nurse manager of the AIC, it's a great enjoyment. Ben, an 11 year employee with HPS started out his CoxHealth career working as a nurse in 9 East.

Since November 5th, 2007, Ben has had the position as nurse manager of the AIC. "I oversee the daily in and outs of the center, and do patient care along with the other nurses," says Foster. "I like working with acute cases like you see at the AIC. It's a very pleasant environment," he added.

When Ben is not managing the AIC, he enjoys working at home. He has a 3



acre yard with a log cabin home and finds working in the yard very relaxing. Feeding birds is Ben's main hobby and he enjoys watching cardinals around his home.



2220 W. Sunset
Springfield, MO 65807
Springfield 417/ 887-7525
Joplin 417/ 781-3773



Address Correction Requested

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Home Parenteral Services staff volunteer in community

In September 2005, we watched in horror at the devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused the Gulf Coast. We had no idea how our lives were about to change. Several HPS staff members and their families were among the first medical teams to respond to the need of thousands of displaced residents of Louisiana and Mississippi. After 3 days of little rest, food, and normal comfort items taken for granted, the team found themselves exhausted but exhilarated at what they had accomplished. The team was proud of the lives they had touched in that short period of time and realized that they did not need to travel to far away places or wait for another disaster to continue acts of service. At that time, those HPS employees made a commitment to become more involved in our local community and volunteerism. Since that time, HPS employees have sponsored blood drives, been involved in "A Time to Share" fashion show for breast cancer survivors, and volunteered at the Pregnancy Care Center. Also, HPS nurses are rotating through evening clinics at The Kitchen clinic. This year employees will participate in the "Day of Caring" activities. HPS feels there is incredible value in being of service to others and continues to make a conscious effort to volunteer in our local community.

Parenteral Pathways is published quarterly for health professionals involved in parenteral and enteral therapy in the Springfield/ Joplin area. Please direct questions and comments to Lynn Kelley, Home Parenteral Services, an affiliate of CoxHealth.

