June 11, 2014

Chuck’s Corner

I just completed my fourth week as Bartlett’s CEO and I continue to be impressed with the great people throughout the organization and the quality of care we provide. I also want to thank everyone for the warm welcomes and best wishes I have received. We are going to have lots of fun in the coming years.

On the note of fun, I believe that we all need to look for opportunities to celebrate each other and be thankful for the opportunities we have to provide great patient care to the members of and visitors to our community. There is not only much to be thankful for, but there are also lots of opportunities for continuing to expand the services that Bartlett provides. As I get a better understanding of the needs and opportunities, I will build that into the strategic planning process the Board will lead in October.

Between now and then, I will be asking for your input on what we can do better/differently to meet the healthcare needs of Juneau and our neighboring communities. As I am rounding throughout the organization, please share your thoughts with me. Also, feel free to email me or just stop by the office.

One of the keys to a successful future will be our ability to work hand-in-hand with our Medical Staff as we define our opportunities. We must value and respect each other as our success is very much intertwined. I am encouraged by the sincerity and passion the physicians have shown in helping me identify ways to build these partnerships.

I look forward to building on these opportunities and earning the trust of our Employees, Board of Directors, Medical Staff, and the Community. With your help, we will make this happen and have fun doing it.

By Chuck Bill, CEO

Annual Competencies

By Gail Morehead, RN

If you have logged into Swank Health Care recently, you will notice that your mandatory annual competencies have been assigned to you. These courses are the topics that need to be reviewed annually for employee and patient safety. Joint Commission, CMS, OSHA and other agencies that regulate healthcare have deemed this information vital to providing a safe environment for our patients, visitors and staff and require all staff to review the material at least annually.

These courses are set up so that you can do modules individually and it will save your results after you have completed the quiz for a module. This way, you can complete them over the next few months instead of completing them all at one time. You still have the option to complete them all at once if you prefer.

Courses are due by October 31, 2014, or before your annual performance review, whichever comes first.

If you have questions about any of the courses, please contact staff development via email or 796-8422.

Compliance Corner

By Sara Parker, RN

What should I report to the Compliance/Risk Manager?

Here is a list of examples:

1) Lateral violence
2) Unethical care/treatment
3) Billing for services that did not take place; i.e., PA sees patient but patient is billed as if the physician saw the patient.
4) Equipment failure that causes patient harm
5) Medical error
6) Suspicion of controlled substance diversion
7) False documentation
8) Breach of confidentiality
9) Missing medical records
10) Child/elder/vulnerable adult abuse

Compliance Hotline: 796-8618
Tuberculosis Infection: How Does It Spread?

By Kim Vermedal, RN

Tuberculosis is an airborne disease, and can be caught by breathing in the air an infected person has contaminated through:

- Breathing
- Coughing
- Talking
- Singing
- Sneezing

TB germs must be forced into the air, and to get a tuberculosis infection you must breathe in those germs — not everyone who breathes in the bacteria will develop tuberculosis.

Ways You Won’t Get TB

If you can get tuberculosis infection by breathing in the air where someone spoke, it should be pretty easy to catch the illness by just touching someone who has TB, right?

Actually, no. You can't get TB by touching an infected person.

Tuberculosis germs don't stick to clothing or skin; they hang out in the air.

You also can't get TB by:

- Giving an infected person a hug or a kiss
- Using the same toothbrush
- Eating or drinking after an infected person
- Shaking hands
- Sharing clothing, a bed, or towels
- Using the same toilet as an infected person

Martha Palicka Named Director of Information Systems

By Alan Germany, Interim CFO

Please join me in congratulating Martha in her official role as BRH Information Systems Director.

Martha has served as the acting IS Director since last July and also served as acting Director for a number of months in 2012. Her knowledge of the Meditech system, clinical background and team building qualities made her the ideal candidate for this position. She has proven herself to be a very capable leader during her time as acting director.

Martha began her career at Bartlett as a nurse in the CCU in 1998 and then achieved certification in critical care (CCRN). Martha also floated to OB, MedSurg, and ED. In 2010 Martha became Clinical Systems Analyst for the IS Department. She also returned to school and received her Master of Science in Nursing with additional specialty in nursing education MSN/Ed.

New BRH Web Site under Construction

By Jim Strader

Recently the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors approved a contract for redesign of the Bartlett web site.

This project, expected to be completed around October 1, will bring our web site an updated look and feel, and a much more interactive user-experience.

We will be working with Coffey Communications on the project for design and build. Once it is completed, Coffey will provide hosting of the site.