

From Hospital 2 Home

CHECK OUT PICTURES FROM OUR PEDIATRIC NURSING CONFERENCE, HELD IN ROCHESTER ON MARCH 26

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Meet Mary Brown-Kelly **TURNING IV STRESS INTO SUCCESS**

With close to 30 years of experience as a nurse, Mary Brown-Kelly has the career she set out for after deciding to follow in her sister's footsteps. And although she didn't realize it at the time, Mary was destined to be an infusion therapy nurse at PHS before she even knew such a role existed.

"When I was working as a floor nurse in the oncology unit at a local hospital, I dealt with all kinds of lines and lab draws," says Mary. "We did antibiotics, total parenteral nutrition, blood products - I was an infusion nurse before I knew I was an infusion nurse."

Today, Mary finds meaning in following a patient's journey and seeing them grow from a child who fears a dressing change to one who is able to start and finish an infusion without any concern.

"To see that progress and see they feel comfortable and know it's okay - that's awesome," says Mary with a smile.

Read more about Mary:
PediatricHomeService.com/blog/meet-mary-brown-kelly



Smart Legislation **ADVOCATING FOR OUR KIDS**

When PHS is at the Capitol advocating for Minnesota's most vulnerable population, there is one overarching message we have for legislators – kids deserve to thrive at home. Our staff and supporters know the legislation we fight for will help keep kids there.

During the 2015 session, PHS has been focused on two bills that will ensure access to specialized medical technologies and high quality care for children with medical complexities. The first - keeping Medicare pricing cuts out of Medicaid – will protect patient access to critical medical equipment and supplies, and the second – establishing a new reimbursement tier for home care nursing – focuses on providing adequate compensation for the highly skilled work our home care nurses deliver.

It has been a busy few months as the bills move through the Senate and House, and along with incredible family advocates, PHS has had the opportunity to provide meaningful testimony at hearings.

Learn about bill updates:
PediatricHomeService.com/blog/legislative-update-2015



Message from Our **Medical Director** **CONFERENCE HELPS EDUCATE**

PHS recently sponsored a nursing conference focused on transitioning pediatric patients from the hospital to home. Attendees received information on this quickly growing population through presentations including the history of pediatric home care, hospital training for parents with technology-dependent children, and pediatric pain and palliative care.

With this growth comes an increasing demand for home care nurses, as children with medical complexities are not only living at home but also living longer, thanks to improved technology. However, recruiting and retaining skilled nurses in home care is compromised by reimbursement rates that make it impossible to provide equitable pay to comparable positions in the hospital setting.

The conference helped educate nursing students as well as current nurses and other health care professionals on the benefits and opportunities in home care to help address this urgent need.

Read more:
PediatricHomeService.com/blog/conference-recap

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