ARMC
Councils and Committees
2012-2013
**Advanced Practice Nurse Council (APNC)**

APNC membership is open to all APNs associated with AtlantiCare Health Systems and masters prepared RNs employed by AtlantiCare. APN and MSN students employed by AtlantiCare are invited to participate as student members. The council provides APNs with networking, educational opportunities, current NJ APN legislative issues and changes/updates at AtlantiCare. The APNC is always looking for new ideas and ways to provide the APN with a rewarding work environment. The APNC allows for conference calls into meetings to accommodate your schedule if you cannot attend in person.

Contact Chairs:  
Eileen Powell APN  2-4037  
Marianne Herman APN 2-3480

**Antimicrobial Management Team (AMT)**

The AMT processes and reviews surveillance information pertaining to Infectious Disease and Infection Control issues. The goal is to improve patient care by targeting antimicrobial therapy.

Contact:  
Joe Reilly  2-2470  
BJ Cino  289-1199

**AtlantiCare Nurses Memorial Education Fund**

The AtlantiCare Nurses Memorial Education Fund started in memory of AtlantiCare nurses who have passed away. The fund’s intention is to substantially raise the amount of annual monies provided to nurses for professional conference attendance and/or continuing education programs. Members of the committee are responsible for coordinating fundraising efforts and also review the nurses’ continuing education/conference funding applications.

Contact:  
Chet Dovidio  1-8420

**Blood Use and Transfusion Committee**

This committee provides ongoing and systematic assessment of transfusion practices and procedures throughout ARMC by monitoring and evaluating key functions and aspects of care and service.

Contact:  
Lori Quirk  2-7583

**Clinical Practice and Informatics Council (CPIC)**

CPIC is a multidisciplinary council comprised of nursing and allied health professionals from all aspects of practice throughout the organization. The council improves clinical practice by identifying and promoting evidence-based practices. CPIC enhances the unit-based staff nurse role to act as a liaison with the Clinical Informatics Department (CID), related to documentation and clinical system support. Members will enhance the quality of our care and documentation through clinical system expertise and mentoring. This provides unit-focused quality monitoring,
increased awareness and knowledge of information systems, peer-to-peer compliance reviews and allows for collaboration between the manager, staff and other departments. CPIC findings are communicated to appropriate departments in a timely manner.

Contacts: Kathy Spencer 1-8952

**Clinical Quality Council (CQC)**

The CQC is a multidisciplinary council comprised of leadership representatives throughout the organization. The council focuses on performance improvement activities, patient focused functions and organizational clinical initiatives and outcomes.

Contact: Mary Jean Burke 1-8982

**Emergency Response Team (ERT)**

The Emergency Response Team is the overall committee that includes the MET Team and both Adult and Pediatric Code Teams. ERT meets the first Wednesday of the month from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the 4th floor PCCU Conference Room at Mainland Campus (tree-house). The team is multidisciplinary and consists of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists and others. We review data and make recommendations to improve emergency response and review and developed policies that govern hospital emergencies requiring the MET Team or Code Team response. We also discuss patient cases and intervene as needed to improve our processes.

**Diabetes Care Committee (DCC)**

The goal of the DCC is improving patient outcomes by enhancing diabetes care and education throughout the organization. The committee members work collaboratively to standardize patient education materials, facilitate individualized patient education, develop and implement ongoing staff education, and promote involvement in community awareness and education programs.

Contact: Monika Black 1-8189

**Document Review Committee (DRC)**

The DRC performs organizational oversight for the development of new and/or revised medical record forms. New and/or revised paper and/or electronic forms are submitted to members of the committee for review and approval before the forms are produced.

Contacts: Jackie Bond 1-8058/2-3507

**Employee Resource Groups**

Employee Resource Groups are a part of AtlantiCare’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. AtlantiCare supports the group's initiatives to create and sustain an inclusive and engaged work environment where all differences are valued, respected, and celebrated. ERGs are formed around common interests but are open to all employees.
Employee Resource Groups (continued)
Current Groups
- ALMA (AtlantiCare Latinos Moving Ahead) - Hispanic American
- APEG (Asian Pacific Employee Group) - Asian Pacific
- Heritage of S.O.U.L (Supporting, Outreach, Unity, Leadership) - African American
- HONORS (Helping our military with Navigation, Opportunity, Resources and Support)
- P.R.I.D.E. (Promoting Respect for Individuality and Equality) - LGBT

Examples of ERG activities
- Serve as resource for recruiting talent
- Celebration of community/cultural events
- Serve as resource in language competence
- Sponsorship of external community events
- Education of employees regarding cultural/community perspectives

Contact: Nilda Mahrer 4-4817

Education Council (EC)
The EC is an interdisciplinary council. Its function is to determine and make recommendations for policies and procedures regarding development and implementation of education at ARMC. The EC determines, establishes and evaluates educational tools to meet identified needs that impact patient care. The EC also coordinates dissemination of interdivisional educational endeavors and makes recommendations regarding resources and materials needed to fully implement education.

Contacts: Diana Gillespie 1-8004

Preceptor Program Committee (part of Education Council)
The Preceptor Program Committee is a multidisciplinary group responsible to review and revise requirements and education for preceptor program. We review applications for staff applying for preceptorship, and identify and resolve issues regarding preceptorship as it relates to unit based orientation. The Preceptor Program committee reports to the Education Council.

Fall Prevention Committee
The Fall Prevention Committee is responsible to continually explore ways to prevent, reduce and eliminate the risk of falls thus promoting patient safety by implementing evidence based practice research.

Contact: Heather Santa Barbara 1-8930
          Rocky Ricapito 2-3587
Infection Prevention and Control Committee
The Infection Prevention and Control Committee is a multidisciplinary committee that meets to discuss the surveillance, prevention and control of infections. Topics also include: public health, outbreak/incident management, emergency preparedness, new legislation, construction, performance improvement projects, product analysis, policies, etc. Staff may be chosen by their department manager to attend as representation from their area.

Contact: Mary Beth Kelly 1-8188
          Gemma Downham 2-7085

Institutional Medical Ethics Committee
Help assure your patients receive only the BEST we can provide. Assist in the development of patient rights policies. Participate in case consultation and review and help implement staff and community education!

Contact: Grissel Hernandez 1-8013
          Juliann Henry 1-2135

Institutional Review Committee (IRC)
The IRC reviews the ethical practice of the hospital in research activities and patient care. IRC regularly reviews research involving human subjects and scrutinizes investigative proposals.

Contact: Peggy Worthington 1-8029

Medication Safety Tactics to Alleviate Risk (MedSTAR)
The MedSTAR team is comprised of representatives from nursing, pharmacy and administration to ensure medication safety. The team conducts Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) regarding a medication process to determine all potential problems or failures before an adverse event occurs.

Contact: Sandra Garrett-Baggs 1-8047

Medical Management Team
The Medical Management team acts as a continuous quality improvement project on adult patients with Pneumonia, Acute Myocardial Infarction and Congestive Heart Failure. It is a multidisciplinary team working together to ensure delivery of a nationally recognized standard of care. Our team focuses on increasing the use of appropriate care process to improve patient outcomes.

Contact: Josie Kikimen 1-2110
Night Shift Committee (NSC)

The NSC is multi-disciplinary and focuses on reaching “distant” staff (evening, nights and off-site staff) during their working hours with information related to the clinical setting. Examples of some of the topics the committee targets: health and wellness events, education, committees, professional ladder projects, professional ladder support, Keep AtlantiCare Strong initiatives, information on new or revised forms, alerts to policy and procedure changes, infection control initiatives, Information/ training on accessing benefits and payroll on-line. The committee members time requirements are "on the clock" friendly and exhaust various forms of communication techniques to alert staff to pertinent information. Currently, the committee has active members in Mainland, City, Hammonton, Health Plex: Clinic, Health Park: Wound Center, Cancer Center, GYN Clinic.

Contact: Cathy Clark 1-4360

Nursing Advisory Council (NAC)

The NAC provides a forum to facilitate communication among staff nurses throughout the organization. The NAC enables staff nurses to demonstrate autonomy and responsibility regarding unit operations and clinical issues identified at the unit forum level, including (but not limited to): education, clinical practice, quality improvement, staff satisfaction, and customer satisfaction and safety issues. Trends in issues that impact nursing across the organization are discussed and action steps identified and implementation monitored.

Contact: Candy Temple 5-7463

Nursing Leadership Council (NLC)

The NLC is chaired by the Vice President of Nursing and comprised of nursing leaders throughout the organization. The council focuses on organizational nursing initiatives.

Contacts: Robyn Begley 1-8131
          Liz Readeau 2-3483

Nursing Research Council (NRC)

The Nursing Research Council is responsible for promoting the conduct and evaluation of nursing and the integration of evidence-based practice into patient care and administrative decision-making at ARMC. This is accomplished by providing leadership, consultation, education and mentorship in research methods and processes. The NRC maintains a portal on the intranet and can be reached on email at:

ARMCNursingResearchQuestions@atlanticare.org

Contacts: Ruth Agbowu 1-8436
**Nutrition Care Committee**

Nutrition care is important for our patients and us. This multidisciplinary committee addresses nutrition policies and practices for inpatients and employees. We are a subcommittee of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and look at nutrition support, diet therapy and wellness issues related specifically to nutrition.

Contact: Joyce Brody 2-3440

**PACERS (Providing Annual & Continuing Education)**

Our Goal: To facilitate consistent education/information to staff at the unit level.

Who is a PACER?
A PACER is a staff member who functions as a resource and change agent at the unit/department level in disseminating information, interfacing with nurses, physicians, other health care providers, patients and families to facilitate consistent education/information.

**PACERS Roles & Responsibilities**

- Regular attendance & active participation at the Clinical PACER’s meetings.
- Motivate and rewards staff.
- Role model for staff, assimilate and disseminates education/information.
- Design unit specific teaching tools and implement (including update pacers binder); unit in services, staff meetings, bulletin boards, communication book, desk top easels (must provide evidence of education; attendance sheets).
- Collaborates with the PACERs chair to evaluate progress and to address any educational issues.
- Ensure staff compliance to topic review.
- Inform Manager immediately for a priority (staff not participating in educational opportunities at unit level).
- Eliminate old versions of forms from your department
- Meet with other unit Pacers regularly to coordinate activities, if applicable

Contact: Susan Newman 1-8007

**Pain Management Committee**

The Pain Management task force team is a multidisciplinary group whose primary objective is development and promotion of an institutional commitment to improving quality and safety to pain management for our patients. The group meets six times a year to discuss a variety of clinical issues and makes recommendations for ARMC practice, policy and procedure.

Contact: Marianne Herman 2-3480

**Palliative Care Committee**

Emphasizes “Living and Living Well.” The Palliative Care Committee provides an innovative approach to treating the whole person - body, mind and spirit. It is a multidisciplinary team working together to provide compassionate, quality care to patients. The group meets six times a year to discuss a variety of clinical issues and makes recommendations for ARMC practice, policy and procedure.

Contact: Marianne Herman 2-3480
Patient and Family Education Committee (PFE)

Are you creative? Do you care about patients and families? Do you want to make an impact? Be a part of a dynamic team! This team helps establish guidelines regarding the education of patients and families.

Contact: Diana Gillespie 1-8004

Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T)

P &T is a physician-led multidisciplinary committee chartered by the medical staff of ARMC. Its primary area of focus is to develop and maintain the ARMC drug formulary as well as policies and procedures that govern medication management within the hospital.

Contact: Joe Gerace 2-4018

Professional Development and Recognition Council (PDRC)

The PDRC is responsible for creating and promoting an environment within the discipline of nursing that actively supports professional development. The PDRC enhances the nurse’s clinical knowledge, values the importance and benefits of membership in professional nursing organizations, supports program activities that promote healthier communities, identifies and recognizes the nurse for his/her superior level of service and supports organizational and annual PDRC goals financially through fundraising activities.

Contacts: Laura Culleny 2-4075

Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) Committee

The purpose of the Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) Committee is to be a resource person for the maternity and ancillary staff who care for patients who have suffered the loss of an infant through miscarriage, stillbirth, or neonatal death. This ensures that every staff member knows how to care for this kind of patient and follows RTS protocols and hospital policies. The committee brings concerns and problems from staff members to meetings in order to resolve all issues. The Committee chair works closely with EBC secretary, Social Services, Christ Child Society, Our365 Photo services, NowILayMeDownToSleep (NILMDTS) Photography and maintains inventory of Gundersan Lutheran Supplies as well as digital photo and bereavement material. The chair also provides education at our annual unit Skills Fair for Maternity, L&D, and NICU. Bereavement memory keepsakes are donated by committee members and fundraising efforts are required for AtlantiCare’s Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day event in October.

Contact: Kathy Fowler 2-3451
**Restraint Committee**

The Restraint Committee oversees hospital compliance to standards and regulations for restraint use in the hospital. The committee provides restraint education and support to nursing staff, as well as analyzes restraint use and provides action plans as needed. The goal of ARMC is to provide a restraint free environment and encourage alternatives to restraints when possible.

Contact: Chair, Eileen Powell 2-4037

**Safe Patient Handling Committee**

The Safe Patient Handling Committee is multi-disciplinary and includes representatives from Nursing, Education, Administration, Safety Office, Occupational Medicine, Physical Therapy and many others. In an effort to encourage a culture of physical safety throughout the AtlantiCare organization the committee develops ideas and activities to promote the safe handling of our patients while reducing staff injuries.

Contact: Trudy Mandia 4-2381

**Starfish Fund Committee**

The AtlantiCare Starfish Fund was created by employees to help employees experiencing financial needs due to a medical, personal, or disaster situation. The fund’s support team is made up of employees and clinical staff who share in the satisfaction of helping someone. Employees seeking assistance complete a Starfish Fund application and return it to Human Resources. At that, time designated committee member acts as a liaison and relays the information to all committee members via email for discussion, a final decision, and referrals to other agencies if applicable.

Contacts: Campus Human Resources AC 1-8086, MLD 2-3486

**Sedation and Analgesia Committee**

The Sedation Committee consists of the Department Chair of Anesthesiology and members of units were sedation is administered. The goal of this committee is to promote safe practices through a competent staff according to the standards and guidelines by monitoring and evaluating sedation/analgesia. Revisions to policy and procedure are implemented by this committee based on evidence based practice.

Contact: Karen Carlson 2-3437

**Skin Care Committee (SCC)**

The SCC team members assist in updating their units/departments on collaborative tasks and accomplishments, assist with one hospital wide prevalence survey annually, and remind staff to complete their BRADEN SCORES. Check out the Nursing portal for meeting schedules and more!

Contact: Diane Maggio 1-2343
Unit Based Nursing Forum (UBF)

The UBF is a shared governance group comprised of unit representatives including (but not limited to): Nursing, PCAs, AAs and other appropriate team members. The goal of the forum is to empower nurses by providing a vehicle for autonomy and responsibility regarding the unit operations and clinical issues, such as scheduling, performance improvement, patient safety and unit specific policies. A representative from every forum attends the Nursing Advisory Council monthly.

Contacts: Unit Based Clinical Manager/

Clinical Director