Transplant and Medical Intensive Care Unit to Open on Level Six

Transplant and medical intensive care patients at The University of Kansas Hospital will soon receive care in the hospital’s new Unit 63.

Beginning Dec. 4, Unit 63 will provide eight private rooms for patients recovering from liver, kidney and pancreas transplants, as well as blood and marrow transplants (BMT), with the ability to increase to 14 beds as our census grows. After spending several days on Unit 63, these patients typically will transfer to Unit 64 for continued care.

“This is a great move because our patients will be on one unit with one team of nurses who have been trained by those specializing in a specific type of transplant,” said Greg Crawford, RN, Unit 63 nurse manager. “Now, we can bring all this knowledge together and provide the best nursing practices to our transplant population.” He noted that moving to Unit 63 was possible because of help from MICU, SICU, PACU, CTICU and the BMT nurses and doctors, as well as the partnership among Amy O’Brien-Ladner, MD, Ahmad Abdulkarim, MD, Richard Gilroy, MD, and Rachael Pepper, RN, Unit 64 nurse manager.

They’ll care for our transplant patients as a team with Unit 64. “We’ll share in our educational opportunities, and the transition from ICU to floor care will be seamless,” Crawford said.

The rooms on Unit 63 are designed to meet the unique needs of transplant patients. There are four Tropicana rooms for patients who have had liver transplants. “A liver transplant is a long surgery, and we need to get the patient warmed up,” said Crawford. “These rooms are high heat, so we bring their core temperature up quickly.”

There also are two positive pressure reverse isolation rooms for BMT patients. These rooms have HEPA filters for air piped into the room, eliminating almost all possibilities of air-borne infections.

To make sure our patients receive the highest quality care, there are two computers for each patient room. Add the computers for unit secretaries and at the nurses’ station, and there are about four computers per patient on Unit 63.

“Our patients are immunocompromised. If we take the mobile computers in and out of the rooms, we are increasing the chances of introducing germs,” said Crawford. “It also allows the nurse to stay at the bedside, optimize workflows and use O2 to provide the safest care possible.”

The opening of Unit 63 is part of the hospital’s overall patient care plan. “We continue to provide high-quality care to our patients and their families,” said Chris Ruder, RN, MS, vice president, Patient Care Services. “Unit 63 is another piece of that equation. It will be exciting to watch the unit grow as our census continues to climb.”

Unit 63 has nearly 40 staff members, including (from left) Laura Dantzler, Kristy Blumquist, RN, Frank Quijano, MD, Lesley Tongish, RN, Greg Crawford, RN, Christy Kinsey, RN, Richard Gilroy, MD, Sara Noll, Brandy Weaver, RN, Kristen Duckworth, RN, and Frank Boyd, RN.
Unit 63 Contacts

Staff members for the hospital’s new transplant and medical intensive care unit have been caring for our patients on different units. Now they will come together on Unit 63.

- Kristy Blumquist, RN, unit educator
- Greg Crawford, RN, nurse manager
- Laura Dantzler, administrative assistant
- Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, RN, PhD, clinical nurse specialist

Unit 63 Phone List

- Nurses’ station: 8-5950
- Unit coordinator: 8-0113
- Nurse manager: 8-0934
- Nurse manager pager: 917-3315
- Nurse educator: 8-6662
- Administrative assistant: 8-5144

By the Numbers

- 8 beds, all private rooms
- 14 beds as census increases
- 2 positive pressure reverse isolation rooms for blood and marrow transplant patients
- 4 Tropicana rooms for liver transplant patients
- 2 computers in every room
- 4 computers, on average, per patient

TRANSITIONS

Transitions is produced by The University of Kansas Hospital’s Communications Services Department. This publication updates employees on the exciting changes taking place at the hospital.