Each year, the misidentification of patients leads to medical mishaps in hospital settings everywhere. The University of Kansas Hospital is taking steps to ensure that caregivers confirm a patient’s identity before every procedure. Identification bracelets and a series of patient questions play a key role in making this happen.

The hospital launched a campaign Oct. 25 to raise awareness about patient safety and educate employees, physicians, patients and visitors about the new patient identification standards implemented hospitalwide in January 2004. The campaign will feature posters and information about new patient identification guidelines.

“We’re trying to emphasize the importance of this very basic step that is so crucial to quality patient care,” said Shirley Weber, director of business operations of patient care services in Organizational Improvement.

The new standards require all patients and most outpatients to receive ID bracelets. They also require health care staff to use two unique identifiers to establish patient identity before performing procedures, administering medicine or doing blood work. These identifiers may include information such as name, birth date, patient number or address.

“This is something we can do that will make the hospital a safer place,” said Suzanne Shaffer, RN, assistant director, Department of Nursing. “This gives patients a more proactive role and, at the same time, allows them to trust in the quality of care they receive.”

By requiring caregivers to use two unique identifiers before treating a patient, the hospital also meets a key goal of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The hospital is taking basic steps toward preventing miscommunication, Weber notes.

“One white bracelet can make a world of difference when it comes to patient safety,” she said.
Local media outlets have recently showcased the achievements of several physicians and researchers from The University of Kansas Hospital and the KU School of Medicine. Ingram’s business magazine recognized two physicians in its 2004 Special Medical edition. Listed among the region’s 10 “Top Doctors” are neurologist Rajesh Pahwa, MD, professor and director of the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center, and oncologist Sarah Taylor, MD, professor and director of Palliative Care Services.

Pahwa is also featured in the Midwest Airlines Magazine September/October 2004 issue in an article titled, “Body Mechanics.” The article explores the use of artificial devices to improve quality of life, including Pahwa’s work with deep brain stimulation in Parkinson’s disease patients.

In addition, the KU School of Medicine published its first volume of Research in Medicine. The annual research report profiles many KUMC scientists and their promising research.

“We’re excited about our premier issue,” says Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean and vice chancellor for Clinical Affairs. “It gives us an opportunity to tell the story of our research enterprise to a wide audience.”

Research in Medicine was mailed with KU Med Magazine in mid-October to medical center alumni, all physicians in Kansas, donors, legislators and KUMC’s life science partners.

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In Memoriam

Donald C. Johnson, PhD, professor emeritus, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, died Oct. 14 after an extended illness.

He earned degrees from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Iowa. In 1963, Johnson began his career at KUMC and remained active after his retirement in 1996.

Contributions may be made to the Donald C. Johnson Seminar Series in Reproductive Biology Fund, University of Kansas Endowment Association, 3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66160.
Classroom Dedication

Friends, family members, students and colleagues gathered Oct. 22 to dedicate the newly remodeled Rehabilitation classroom and library to George Varghese, MD, chair, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Pictured are (from left) Perri Craven, MD, medical director, St. Francis Health Systems, Tulsa, Okla.; Varghese; Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean, KU School of Medicine, and vice chancellor for Clinical Affairs; and William Kossow, MD, medical director, Inpatient Unit, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina, Kan. Craven and Kossow, former residents in the Rehab Department, funded the classroom renovations and audiovisual additions as part of the KU First Family Campaign.

Seeing Red

Above, Donald Hagen, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor (second from left), applied the finishing touches to the striping for Lot 90. The expanded lot adds 260 parking spaces, including 223 red spaces to KUMC’s total parking inventory. The lot opened Oct. 25. Assisting Hagen were (from left) Rick Johnson, director of Public Safety; Avis Moore, assistant director of Parking Services; and Nan Josephson, manager, Facilities Planning.

Hartley Tour

Patricia (left) and Dub (right) Hartley toured the newly renovated Hartley Family Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Department of Hearing and Speech’s Audiology Clinic on the fourth floor of the Miller Building Oct. 12. Since 1990, the Hartleys have contributed more than $600,000 to the center, which provides services to deaf children from birth to 3 years old and to their families. Pictured with the Hartleys is John Ferraro, PhD, department chair. Major contributions have also come from the Estate of Jessie Hodges Benton and the Louis and Dolpha Baehr Charitable Trust.
Classifieds, etc.

**Automotive**
1999 Harley Davidson Sportster 1200 custom, all chrome, 7K miles, remainder of service warranty included, $10,500. 816-763-1082.
1988 Toyota pickup with topper, excellent tires, new battery, must sell. 913-393-0802.
1999 Hyundai Elantra. 82K miles, automatic, AC, cruise, cassette, gray interior/ exterior, excellent condition, very clean, 1 owner, $3,850. 913-338-3460.
1999 Chevy Astro conversion van, 87.5K miles, 7-passenger, rear dual air, power windows/tilt/cruise, $7,100. 816-578-4362.

**For Sale**
MTD push lawnmower, good working condition, $40. 913-649-4048.
House, super location near I-35/I-635, quiet street in great neighborhood, spacious 3 BR, 2/1/2 BA, 2-car garage, large yard, $151,500. Martha at 913-661-2360.
New La-Z-Boy brown leather reclining sofa and chair, treated for stains, owned for 2 weeks, paid $2,050, asking $1,800. 816-468-6476.
Nearly new Midwest dog/cat crate home training series 42Lx26Wx28H, tough ABS plastic pan, secure slide-bolt latch, black electro coat finish, easy setup (no tools needed), originally $80, asking $55. 816-468-6313 or 816-436-0119.
Whirlpool washer and dryer, heavy duty, $150 each or $250 for pair; several wheelchairs, make offer; portable toilet, make offer. Kevin at 913-269-0095.

Thursday, Oct. 28
- MRRC and Department of Physiology Seminar: “Multisensory Integration in Primates: Anatomical and Behavioral Approach,” Pascal Barone, noon-1 p.m., MRRC Conference Room, Smith East 1004.
- American College of Healthcare Executives Lecture Series, Steve Wilkinson, president and chief executive officer of Menorah Medical Center, 6-7 p.m., 1025 Orr-Major.

Friday, Oct. 29
- Pediatric Grand Rounds: “Sleep Disordered Breathing and Adenotonsillectomy: A Diagnostic Dilemma,” Julie Wei, MD, 8-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.
- “Recognition and Management of Domestic Violence,” Zita Surprenant, MD, 8-11 a.m., G013 School of Nursing. Register at 8-5426.
- Psychiatry Grand Rounds: “Improving Long-Term Care and Health: Optimizing the Patient’s Ability to Function,” Greg Sathananthan, MD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sudler Auditorium.
- Diversity Forum: “Race Relations in the Sunflower State,” Jim Leiker, noon-1 p.m., Wahl Hall West.

Monday, Nov. 1

Tuesday, Nov. 2
- Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture Series: “Obesity Prevention: From Research to Policy,” Debra Haire-Joshu, PhD, MPH, noon-1 p.m., B018 School of Nursing. Also Nov. 3.

Wednesday, Nov. 3
- Student Wellness Program: “Discovering Balance: A Patient’s Coming Out Process,” Jamie Lee, noon-1 p.m., 1050 School of Nursing. Free lunch for first 25 students.

Used Kenmore heavy-duty washer and gas dryer, $100 each or $175/pair. 913-342-5237.
 Queen-size waterbed frame with bookcase headboard, padded rails, $75. 913-722-5735.
 Beautiful wooden dining table, 6 matching chairs, $45; sofa/loveseat/coffee table, $69; big microwave, $12; 2 twin-size beds, $20 per bed or $10 per piece; mahogany-colored CEO desk, 1 year old, $59 OBO. E-mail moca59@yahoo.com or call 913-649-2239 6-9 p.m.
 Sony 36” flat-screen TV, 5-disc DVD/CD player, surround-sound system, $1,200; new oak dining room table, 6 chairs, $700. 913-634-7336.
 Antique oak secretary/bookcase, excellent condition, original glass; Linksys wireless router/PC card; make offers. 913-897-5256 or 816-804-2924.

IN THE CENTER
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