At UK HealthCare, hearing a series of beeps during medication administration is a good thing. The quick sounds let nurses and patients know that the “five rights” are being confirmed – the right patient, the right medication, the right dose, the right time and the right route of administration.

The use of barcode technology at patients’ bedside has shown impressive gains in reducing medication administration errors at other organizations across the country. Here at home, the pilot for barcode medication administration (BCMA) is underway at Good Samaritan Hospital, and it is already making a difference.

“The pilot has gone well and the feedback has been good,” says Kimberley Hite, director, medication safety and quality. “Scanning the medication barcodes allows us to document what medicine was given and when it was given, in real time. It’s a really good system.

“This is for patient safety,” Hite says. “The system will help us prevent giving patients duplicate doses of their medicine and alert us if we try to give medication before a patient is scheduled to receive it.”

When it’s time for nurses to administer medication, he or she uses a hand-held device to scan the barcodes on their identification badge, scan the patient’s wristband and then scan the drug’s barcode. If the system can’t match the drug with the order in the system, it alerts the nurse with a visual warning.

“We are creating the best environment we can for quality, safe and efficient care,” says Colleen Swartz, chief nurse executive. “Our patients expect us to provide medications in a way that is safe – where we can replicate the process every single time.”

The nursing staff can rest assured that UK HealthCare is committed to improving quality of care by investing in state-of-the-art technology to improve patient safety, as demonstrated by use of the new system.

Nurses are spending about 25 percent of their shifts administering medication. About a third of errors that occur are during this time. With the new BCMA, “we want to insert a line of safety to ensure the patients are getting the right medicine, the right dose at the right time,” Swartz says.

Pharmacies will also benefit from the new system with decreased dispensing errors. “This is an exciting project that has been a long time coming,” says Gary Johnson, enterprise pharmacy director. “We are excited about the implication for patient safety. There are some real improved features for our operations with this technology.”

Barcode Medication Administration (BCMA) is an inventory control system that uses barcodes to prevent human errors in the distribution of prescription medications at hospitals. The goal of BCMA is to make sure that patients are receiving the correct medications at the correct time by electronically validating and documenting medications. The information encoded in barcodes allows for the comparison of the medication being administered with what was ordered for the patient.
Personnel Briefs

Oncofertility specialist joins UK HealthCare team

Leslie A. Appiah, MD, has joined UK Women’s Health Obstetrics & Gynecology as a board-certified gynecologist with expertise in oncofertility and fellowship training in pediatric and adolescent gynecology. Oncofertility bridges the specialties of oncology and reproductive endocrinology with the purpose of maximizing the reproductive potential of cancer patients and survivors.

Appiah will serve as director of oncofertility and work closely with subspecialists in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, Markey Cancer Center and Kentucky Children’s Hospital.

Appiah and her team will collaborate to preserve the fertility and reproductive health of pediatric, adolescent and adult cancer and blood disorder patients of all genders.

Moliterno named vice dean for clinical affairs

David Moliterno, MD, has been named vice dean for clinical affairs at the College of Medicine. In addition to his other responsibilities, he will work with physician and non-physician leaders in the college and medical center in the areas of recruitment, faculty compensation, physician career development and fulfillment. Moliterno will also handle all clinical interactions with the Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Evers named vice dean for academic development

Mark Evers, MD, has been named vice dean for academic development at the College of Medicine. In addition to his other responsibilities, he will initiate planning to shape and secure our academic future by engaging all stakeholders. Evers will define priorities and investment needs to move the college forward, much like his remarkable achievements at Markey Cancer Center.

News Briefs

DanceBlue 2014 raised $1.436 million.

Renowned dance marathon benefits children with cancer and their families

Whether participating as a dancer, volunteer, committee member or even a supporter, DanceBlue is something no one ever forgets, and this year was no exception. With a family talent show featuring children from the clinic, and an emotional memorial hour to remember those who have lost their battle with cancer, the announcement of the grand fundraising total of $1,436,606.24 at the ninth annual dance marathon was jubilation for several thousand people.

Claci Ayers, 2014 overall chair, said after the dance marathon that all the hard work is worth it. “This weekend kids will smile, laugh, dance and just get to be a kid for 24 hours,” she said. “The committee has worked so hard and I am proud of every single one of them.”

More than 800 dancers completed this year’s DanceBlue, including several UK HealthCare employees. All of the money raised at this annual 24-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon benefits DanceBlue Kentucky Children’s Hospital Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic patients and their families.

Rollout of new ID badges continues through May

Every UK HealthCare employee will be issued a new ID badge during the next few months. The new badges will offer all UK HealthCare employees more flexibility and afford an increased level of security by monitoring access to secure areas. The old badges will continue to work during the new-badge conversion.

New badges will be made at the Chandler Hospital Pavilion A or Good Samaritan Hospital security offices during expanded hours, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Evening and weekend hours will be provided.

Check In The Loop – emailed to employees every Wednesday afternoon – to see when it’s your turn to go to the security office for new badges. For most, the schedule is based on your date of birth.

What you need to know:

- The new ID-badge duo consists of a UK-issued WildCard and a UK HealthCare-issued badge similar to the one you have now.
- Both cards will be housed in a badge holder with a horizontal loop at the top for lanyards and badge reels; the badge holder will be provided.
- The new ID cards do not have holes in them and must not be punctured or altered in any way. Doing so will disable the WildCard.
- The new cards have a mag strip and barcodes for functionality.
- A barcode has been added to the front of the UK HealthCare cards for easy scanning.
- Old badges must be turned in to receive a new badge.
- Allow a three-hour window from the time you receive your new badge until the time you clock in or out; Kronos needs that time to sync the new badge into the payroll system.
- If you lose your current badge before you receive the two new ID badges, you will need to be reissued a current version of your badge.

If you have issues with the new ID badges, immediately contact the IT Help Desk at 859-323-8586 or Security at 859-257-8573, mobile #UKPD (#8573). For more information about the rollout of new badges, contact Shawn Crouch in administration at 859-257-2279.

Vital Signs is published by UK HealthCare Communications & Advertising.
Submit news items to steve.harris@uky.edu or 859-257-5361.
Steve Harris, internal communication manager | Jan Taylor, director, Communications & Advertising
Early catch leads to recovery for UK HealthCare employee

On Friday, Sept. 6, 2013, Megan McIntosh went to a physical therapy appointment for what her physician thought was a sciatic nerve issue causing foot pain. Physical therapist Mark Elkin began working with McIntosh and immediately noticed a discoloration of her foot and a temperature change. He recommended she see her physician again because he no longer thought therapy was the answer; he thought it was a vascular issue.

McIntosh, who works in the Office of Patient Experience, ended up going to the emergency department on Monday morning where she was admitted. Soon after, she saw a team of vascular surgeons, cardiologists, rheumatologists and therapists for her condition. As it turned out, her original foot pain was a blood clot behind her knee that had traveled down to her foot. Because the physical therapist caught the temperature change and brought it to her attention, she was able to get to the ED and they later discovered the clot.

There was a time when, because of the lack of blood flow and circulation to her foot, amputation was considered. Thankfully it never came to that. Today, she is back to normal and doing fine, all thanks to her physical therapist, Mark Elkin, and her exceptional UK HealthCare team of doctors.

Ishenhoff goes the extra mile for hospital visitor

Debbie Isenhoff is dedicated even when she isn’t working. On a subfreezing day earlier this year, Isenhoff clocked out and was headed home when she encountered a man who was wandering around Pavilion A at Chandler Hospital.

After talking to the man, Isenhoff, who works at the urology clinic, found out he was trying to visit a patient at Good Samaritan Hospital.

She helped him look for his car on the first and third floors of the parking garage before finally finding his Lincoln on the second floor. But she wasn’t finished.

The man didn’t know where he was going, so Isenhoff got her car and the man followed her to Good Samaritan. She then helped him find a parking spot and walked him inside to the hospital elevator so he could visit a patient – showing a remarkable act of kindness to help someone in need.

Clinical Nurse Excellence Awards

Allyson Jacoby, RN
Kentucky Children’s Hospital
PICU/PCU
January

Clare Delomas
Good Samaritan Hospital
Operating Room
March

Betty Reeves, RN
Center for Advanced Surgery (CAS)
Operating Room
March

Tina Rogers, RN
Center for Advanced Surgery (CAS)
Preop/PACU
March

HAPPENINGS

Nursing education fair
April 10
Representatives from several of the top regional nursing schools will be on hand at the UK Nursing Education Fair, April 10, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Good Samaritan Hospital, conference rooms A and B. They will provide information on their programs including LPN-to-RN, LPN/EMT-to-RN, ADN-to-RN, BSN traditional, ADN-to-MSN, MSN, DNP and PhD options. Contact Sue H. Strup, MSEd, MSN, RN, in the UK Nursing Career Resource Center at 859-323-3169.

Nursing career-planning workshop
April 17
Nursing careers in palliative care and an overview of McKendree University’s MSN program in palliative care, including prerequisites and admission, will be discussed by the speaker April 17, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Chandler Hospital, Pavilion A, room A.01.123. The 45-minutes session includes a free lunch, drinks, dessert and handouts from the university. Contact Sue H. Strup, MSEd, MSN, RN, in the UK Nursing Career Resource Center at 859-323-3169.

New College of Nursing dean will take over Aug. 1

A national leader in nursing education, tobacco control and health care outreach has accepted the position of dean of the UK College of Nursing and Warwick Professorship. Janie Heath, who is currently the associate dean of academic programs and the Thomas Saunders III Endowed Professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, will take over as dean at UK on Aug. 1, pending UK Board of Trustees approval.

Personnel Briefs

Janie Heath

continued from previous page
Make-A-Wish honors UK social worker for her dedication to children’s wishes

At a surprise reception, Make-A-Wish Ohio/Kentucky recently presented Rachel O’Farrell with the chapter’s 2013 Medical Professional of the Year award. The UK HealthCare social worker is a referral source for Make-A-Wish, an organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. O’Farrell was recognized for her dedication in helping create magical experiences for as many as 30 young cancer patients. She is the first medical professional in Kentucky to receive the honor.

Clockwise, from top: Rachel (left) was escorted to the surprise party by Kim Pettingell, senior medical outreach manager for the Make-A-Wish chapter representing Kentucky; Rachel O’Farrell and her baby, Finn, celebrate her surprise honor as the 2013 Make-A-Wish Medical Professional of the Year; UK HealthCare social workers, doctors, nurses and other staff gathered to surprise Rachel.