

TL2 – Clinical Nurse’s Advocacy, Nursing Unit Goal

Clinical Nurse(s)

As a tertiary care center with a telemedicine program for Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine and a Level 3 (highest) neonatal intensive care unit, we receive patients from outlying regions who require higher levels of care for their birthing experience. Coupled with the population of the more immediate Lehigh Valley community, sadly we care for a higher than average number of families who experience fetal deaths.

In July, 2014, **one of our clinical nurses, Sarah Rinker, BSN, RN**, wrote an e-mail to our chief operating officer, Terry Capuano, describing her experience as a patient earlier in the year when she lost her infant son, Samuel. Sarah poignantly described the lack of a close-by area for her family to go to when they were not in her patient room, other than the Labor and Delivery waiting room, which was filled with families celebrating the happy news of a healthy baby. She passionately **asked Terry to consider the need to create a private space on the Labor and Delivery unit for families such as hers to grieve.**

Note: Sara is an infection prevention nurse; in this role she spends the majority of her time on patient care units, interacting with the nurses and patients, investigating and resolving infection prevention and control issues. Thus, she is considered a clinical nurse. Evidence of Sara’s initial e-mail is presented below, within a string of e-mails pertaining to this subject.

Nursing Unit Goal

For many years, the clinical nurses on our Labor and Delivery (L & D) unit have been the driving force and mainstays of a Perinatal Loss Committee. Their work has been phenomenal and featured within our Magnet designation evidence in previous years. Evidence to show that **perinatal loss enhancements continue to be a defined goal for the L & D** unit is that two of our L & D clinical nurses identified formal goals for fiscal year 2015 associated with perinatal loss. The e-mails were sent to the L & D unit director, Sue Minio, in response to the requirement for all of our staff to identify personal annual goals that are aligned with organizational and unit priorities. The specific goals are:

- “Participate in the Perinatal Loss Committee by making our loss books for patients.” L & D clinical nurse Natalie Yocum, RN
- “Sew and supply the camisole robes for the perinatal loss babies.” L & D clinical nurse Robin Weiss, RN

E-mails to Sue Minio identifying goals.



Advocacy

Sara Rinker’s e-mail to Terry Capuano was the driving force to initiate plans for a perinatal loss room on the L & D unit. Because of her passion displayed for

improving the patient and family experience, Sara was invited and accepted the invitation to become a member of our **Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council**. **Sara regularly attends these meetings and actively participates in discussions.**

Agenda items included, among other things, planning for the perinatal loss room.

Evidence of Sara's advocacy includes:

- E-mail to Terry Capuano from Sara, advocating for the perinatal loss room. This e-mail is the very last e-mail in the string of e-mails. The e-mail string shares Terry's response to Sara, as well as Terry's advocacy to make it .happen and the preliminary plan for creating the room from Mary Bianchi, Vice President for Women and Children Services.



- Two sets of minutes from the Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council, showing Sara's attendance and discussion of perinatal loss room.



Allocation of Resources:

As this evidence is being prepared, finishing touches are being made to the newly constructed room for patients and families requiring privacy associated with their experience on the L & D unit. At the time of a site visit we will show you this room.

Evidence of room creation, in addition to the above minutes from the Children's Hospital Family Advisory, is an agenda and the associated PowerPoint for the January 27, 2015 Family Advisory Council meeting, showing the Facilities and Construction update for the perinatal loss room.

