

Hopital implements new patient safety initiative

The new year started with a new look at Rockcastle Regional Hospital & Respiratory Care Center. Since January 2, healthcare providers and other hospital staff now wear color-coded uniforms to identify their role in the spectrum of patient care. The colors can help patients and visitors better know who's-who at a glance.

Other hospitals across the nation, including UK HealthCare, Cleveland Clinic and the University of Michigan Health System, have standardized uniform colors. At Rockcastle Regional Hospital, RNs and LPNs wear royal blue, SRNAs wear grey and nursing unit clerks wear turquoise in the nursing department. Other departments include: environmental services (green), respiratory therapy (light or dark brown), diagnostic imaging (maroon) and rehabilitation therapy (black) uniforms. The Medical Arts building staff wears red or black.

Rockcastle Regional Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Cynthia Burton, RN, says that basic idea is to improve the patient experience. The organization began planning the transition in April 2012, after researching the success of other facilities and then seeking approval from hospital administration.

"We want to make it easier for patients and families to identify and easily distinguish their nurse from nursing assistants, respiratory therapist, etc. and to present a more professional image," said Burton. "This new initiative is designed to improve patient satisfaction. We made the decision to implement the new uniform policy because of our dedication to provide safe, professional care to patients and their family members."

Burton also says the initial response has been positive and looks forward to measuring the response from the community via patient satisfaction scores.



Some departments of Rockcastle Regional Hospital & Respiratory Care Center now wear color-coded uniforms to assist in providing a more patient-friendly environment. Pictured, from left, James Gambrel (Diagnostic Imaging), Emily Valentine, (Rehabilitation Therapy), Amanda Hurt and Pat Doan (Environmental Services), Ellen Miller and Delbert Hines (Respiratory Therapy), Tricia Beth Nelson (RN), Brenda S. Hayes (unit clerk), Gene Mobley (LPN), Terri Morgan (SRNA), Elizabeth Delph and Mercedes Burkhardt (Medical Arts).

Five simple ways to save energy in 2013

With the holidays over and the guests out of the house, many are turning their attention to another annual tradition — the New Year's resolution.

While Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company can't motivate someone to go to the gym, the utilities can inspire you to save energy this year with a variety of energy efficiency programs available to residential electric customers.

Here are five energy-saving resolutions for the New Year:

1. Perform a Home Energy Analysis: KU and LG&E offer two types: online and on-site. The online home energy analy-

sis takes about 10 minutes and provides a customized report that includes recommendations on how to save energy. Or, sign up for an on-site home energy analysis and a certified technician will assess your home's energy efficiency. Financial incentives are also available to eligible customers who take action to make their homes more energy efficient as a result of an on-site analysis.

2. Recycle that Old, Inefficient Fridge or Freezer: The fastest and easiest way to drop some (household) weight is to recycle that old, inefficient fridge or freezer hanging out in your garage or basement. Make

an appointment, and KU and LG&E will pick-up, haul away and properly recycle your working energy hog. In return, you'll receive \$30 per recycled appliance within six to eight weeks.

3. Apply for a Home Energy Rebate: KU and LG&E offer monetary rewards ranging from \$50 to \$300 to help residential electric customers offset the purchasing costs of certain ENERGY STAR® certified appliances, high-efficiency HVAC systems and qualified window film.

4. Enroll in Demand Conservation: Get paid to help KU and LG&E better manage peak summer energy demand. Even

though it's winter, the utilities can still install a device on your home's central air conditioning unit or heat pump. In return, the utilities will credit your monthly utility bill, June through September.

5. Check your HVAC System's Air Filter: Check your HVAC system's air filter monthly and replace as necessary, according to the manufacturer's recommendations. A dirty filter will slow air flow, making your system work harder to keep you warm in winter.

Visit lge-ku.com/savingenergy to learn more and to sign up for all the energy-saving programs listed.

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