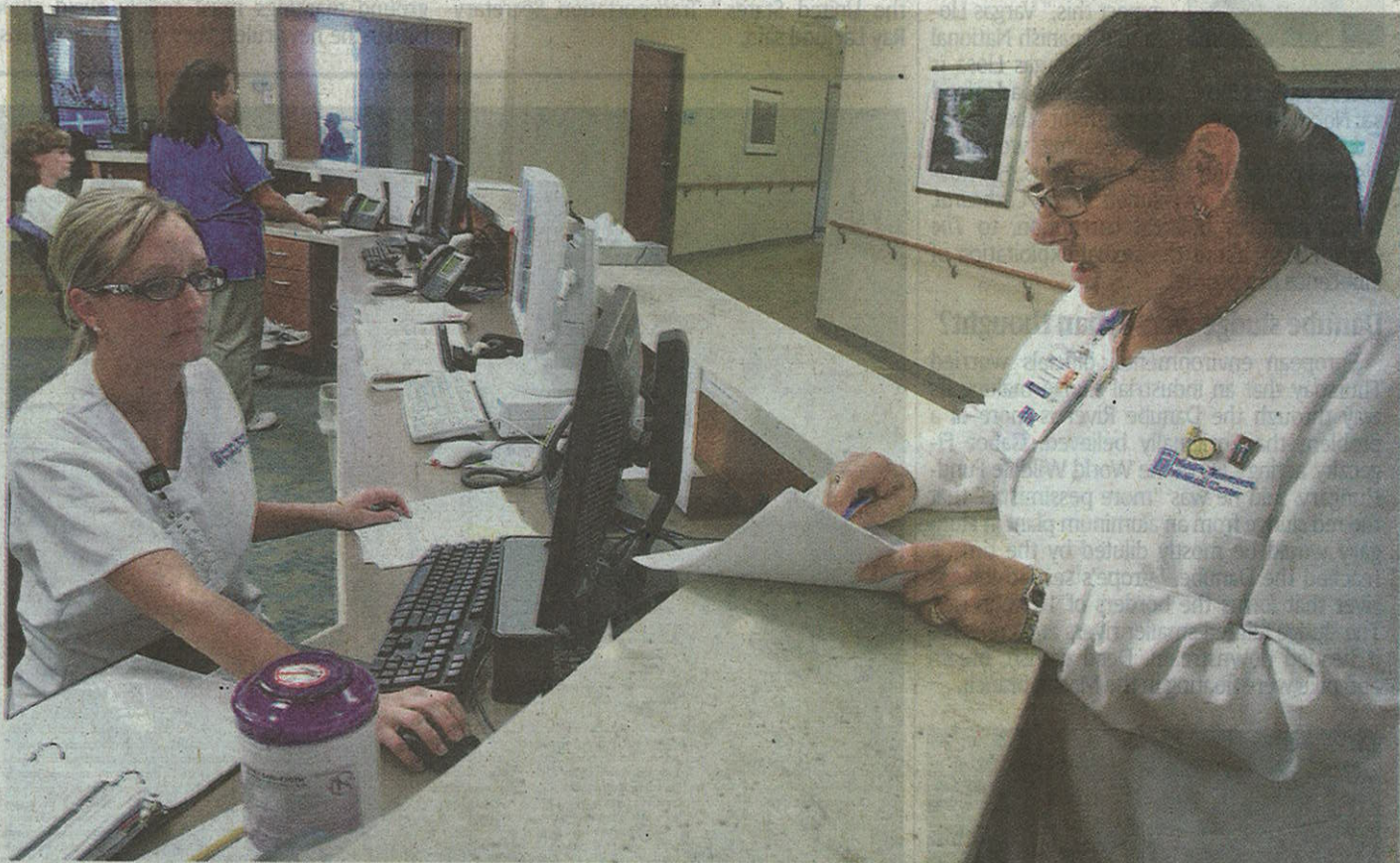


New MTMC passing first week check-up



AARON THOMPSON/DNJ

ICU Educator Tammy Sartain, right, goes over the new Total Parental Nutrition procedures with Jessica Stewart on Thursday at the new Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro. For previous coverage, go to dnj.com.

Employees enjoying getting acclimated to relocation

BY DOUG DAVIS
DOUGDAVIS@DNJ.COM

Weeks of training prior to Saturday's move into the new Middle Tennessee Medical Center continue to pay dividends as the hospital staff com-

pletes its first week with patients in the new facility on Medical Center Parkway.

"Everything has gone really well," said Tammy Sartain, a registered nurse and critical care educator at the new \$267 million facility. "One staff

member told me 'All the education has really been worth it.' It was really hard, but they were prepared coming into the hospital."

Part of the training and classes

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hospital associates received before patients were moved from the North Highland location of MTMC was to prepare for a new system-wide nurse call system at the new site.

"Everyone attended classes about the call system, and were trained in scenarios of working with it, using imaginary patients," Sartain said.

Under the old system, a patient would push a button near or attached to the hospital bed, and it was seen at the nurses station. The new system calls a nurse personally.

"The new system also alerts the nurse if the physician has written new orders and if there is an emergency with the patients in her area," Sartain said. "The patient call system has specific calls for pain and going to the toilet." Of course, responding to imaginary patients in training is a little different from handling calls from the real ones.

"The nurses are a little slow with learning the new nurse call system, but they have picked it up really fast," the critical care educator said. "They have worked with the system really well."

Additional computers inside and outside each critical care patient's room make it easier and more efficient to record updated information on the patients condition and treatment.

"Before, nurses worked at a computer at the nurses' station that you had to share with other members of the health care system (like doctors and nutritionists) that may be seeing that pa-

Patient census at the new MTMC

Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. — 230
 Oct. 7 at 6 a.m. — 262
 Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. — 228
 Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. — 224
 Oct. 5 at 6 a.m. — 255

Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. — 190
 Oct. 4 at 6 a.m. — 225
 Oct. 3 at 6 a.m. — 180
 The new hospital is licensed for 286 beds.
 Source: MTMC



AARON THOMPSON/DNJ

Mikaela Clark is shown Thursday with her daughter Charlie McIntyre, who was born Tuesday at the new Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro.

tient as well," Sartain said. "(In the new hospital) doctors have a nice, quiet dictation area where they can review a patient's chart on the computer."

Mikaela Clark's daughter, Charlie McIntyre, was born at 11:32 p.m. Tuesday at MTMC. Clark had already checked out the new hospital during a public tour of the building in September. But she is also impressed with the treatment she has received.

"Care at the hospital has been fantastic," Clark said. "The nurses, the aides; everybody is here to please you. It's just been great."

She likes the quick response time after using the hospital room's call button.

"The nurse can come right away, without someone answering and relaying messages," Clark said.

During this first week, there have been some minor issues to be worked out, like doors to halls in the hospital not opening in a timely manner once a button was pushed. But that has been worked out.

"There have been meetings with leadership and staff every day to discuss how everything is going so we can keep in touch if there are issues," said Angie Boyd-Chambers, public relations director. "Different departments received new phone numbers, so we are learning new phone extensions."

The Highland Avenue location of MTMC has been completely shut down since late Saturday morning, even though different departments are returning there to pick up a few items.

"We have a list of several different organizations that have asked for cer-

tain items (from the old hospital)," Boyd-Chambers said. "We will donate to those organizations."

St. Thomas Heart at MTMC will be moving Oct. 18 from the Bell Street Center, where it has been since February, 2008, to the fourth floor of the DePaul medical office building next to the new campus on Medical Center Parkway.

The Cancer Center, and Center for Breast Health, will remain at the Bell Street Center until completion of a second medical office building near the new MTMC, behind the DePaul building. Construction of that building has not yet begun.

— Doug Davis, 615-278-5152

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