

Shore Memorial Hospital selected for multi-state study

BALTIMORE – Shore Memorial Hospital has been selected to partner with the University of Maryland to study the role of nurses in improving care for patients with heart failure.

SMH is one of 12 facilities chosen for the Rural Hospital Collaborative program, coordinated through the university's School of Nursing.

Selected facilities will implement a series of steps related to patient care and education, as well as staff training. The goal is to improve the quality of treatment for heart failure patients.

Recent estimates indicate that people with chronic conditions receive all of the recommended care only 55 percent of the time. Numbers are slightly better for heart disease victims, who get the right care 68 percent of the time.

Shore Memorial Hospital performs much better than average. The most recent quality data showed 100 percent of heart failure patients received the right care at the right time in July.

“We’re ahead of the ballgame,” said Robin Pruitt, the Shore Memorial Hospital RN who is serving as site coordinator for the study. “We already have a lot of the steps in place. This gives us a chance to network and see what other facilities are doing. This gives us a chance to pat our nurses on the back.”

RNs and LPNs account for more than half of all health care providers in the United States. But little research exists to demonstrate how what they do affects patient care and safety.



Robin Pruitt, an RN at Shore Memorial Hospital, will serve as the SMH site coordinator for the Rural Hospital Collaborative program.

As part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative – a \$10 million, five-year program – this study will help fill the gap.

Shore Memorial Hospital, founded in 1928, is the cornerstone of Shore Health Services, a locally based, non-profit health care network. For more information about programs or services, call 414-8000.