

## Lake Forest Hospital

Bev Weaver McLaughlin



Lake Forest Hospital (LFH) was the recipient of the Consumer Choice Award as the best hospital in Lake County in quality of care, nursing and medical care for the past three years. It is located on a 160-acre campus in the Southeastern portion of Lake County, approximately 30 miles from Chicago. The Emergency Department, which is recognized as a Level II Trauma Center and an Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics, was renovated in 2000 with 17 beds in the main ED, plus 4 expansion beds used for Fast Track patients. In 2004 LFH opened its Grayslake Campus comprised of an Acute Care Center with diagnostic support services and physician's offices. Both campuses implemented the Electronic T System for ED documentation in 2007. LFH Emergency Department volume, reflective of the growth of Lake County, increased by 23% over the past 3 years and the Acute Care Center by a booming 53 %!

The ED leadership team at Lake Forest Hospital is comprised of Beverly Weaver McLaughlin, RN, MS, Nurse Director, Mary Ann Zemla, RN, BSN, Team Leader, Lori Patsis, RN, BSN, EMS Coordinator, and Joe Storto, RN, BSN, Trauma Coordinator. Dawn Frank, RN, BSN, who was the 2006 recipient of the Ron Lee Award for excellence in pediatric community service, directs the Grayslake Acute Care Center. Dr. Jacek Franaszek is the Medical Director of both facilities.

There are 39 staff nurses in the LFH ED, supported by 23 ED Techs and 2 dedicated Case Managers who share the goal of attaining excellence in care and patient satisfaction. Three staff nurses are currently enrolled in the master's program at Purdue University through a virtual classroom at LFH. Additionally, four members of the ED nursing staff are engaged in evidence-based clinical ladder projects, one of which entails redesign of the triage area and process, and two others collaborate on projects directed by nurses from other specialties. ED nurses chair the hospital's Nurses Week recognition committee, the DeCon Team, and the Emergency Preparedness Committee and are actively engaged in community education.

The Unit Operations Committee, which is part of Lake Forest's shared governance structure, is very active. It is chaired by Nancy Nozicka, RN, BSN, CEN who was recognized as the 2007 LFH Nurse of the Year by her peers. This committee set standards and scheduling guidelines for the ED, reviews policies, and developed and implemented a team-model of care delivery. The committee is also sponsoring a study group for the CEN exam with certification costs reimbursed by the hospital.

Lake Forest Hospital nurses have a past filled with tradition... and a future with no limits.