



COLUMBUS
REGIONAL
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

2008 Berman Project New Model of Nursing Care

Columbus Regional Hospital's Challenge

An increasing number of inpatients at CRH have multiple health problems that require nurses to provide more complex care; for example, heart patients with diabetes or stroke patients with heart conditions.

No workable model for complex patient nursing care existed elsewhere, so CRH needed to develop a new model to meet these more complicated patient needs while reducing cost to the patients.

Solution

The five-month shutdown of the hospital due to the 2008 flood offered CRH a unique opportunity to recreate its complex patient nursing care model. The new system has resulted in:

- More highly trained nurses with skills that enable them to care for more complicated patients.
- More Masters degree-trained RNs closer to the bedside devoted to helping staff RNs routinely and rapidly adopt the latest, best treatments.
- Greater focus on disease management and care after patients are discharged.
- More cost-efficient RN staffing.

How Berman Funds Were Used

- Five full days of onsite training for 450 CRH RNs (accomplished while CRH was shut down after the 2008 flood).
- Expenses for five nurses to attend a national conference in October 2008 to become certified trainers.
- Certification testing fees.
- Expenses for new model implementation after the hospital reopened.

Outcomes to Date

This new nursing model has been nationally recognized as innovative, and CRH nurse leaders will present at two premier national conferences in 2009 and 2010. (Magnet Conference on Nursing and Institute for Healthcare Improvement).

What's Next?

Development of internal training and orientation programs to sustain and continuously improve these new nursing practices.