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Members in the News – April 2017

Desert Springs Hospital First in Nevada to Use Next Generation Cardiac Mapping System

Desert Springs Hospital is the first hospital in Nevada to utilize the EnSite Precision cardiac mapping system, a next-generation platform designed to improve accuracy, automation and flexibility for diagnostic mapping used in ablation procedures to treat patients with abnormal heart rhythms (cardiac arrhythmias). The new system allows physicians to see the electrical flows in the heart in real time.

“This mapping system significantly helps electrophysiologists determine the mechanism and location of common and uncommon cardiac arrhythmias,” explained cardiac electrophysiologist Arjun Guraraj, MD, who performed the first case using the technology this month. “I place catheters within the heart to try to localize the origin of the arrhythmia. This mapping system finds the focus of an arrhythmia by constructing a very high density map of the heart, which can lead me to its location within millimeter accuracy.”

The system maps the heart’s electrical currents by communicating via catheters inside the heart and electrodes on the patient’s back and chest. It can also monitor the patient’s breathing and heart contractions.

Upon locating the arrhythmia, an ablation is performed, which applies heat to the tissue where abnormal heartbeats originate. The heat creates a lesion or scar on the tissue, which makes it incapable of conducting the arrhythmia.

“We are very pleased to offer this new technology to benefit our patients,” said Ryan Jensen, Chief Executive Officer for Desert Springs Hospital. “The ability to accurately pinpoint an arrhythmia’s location and ablate it can reduce the risk of stroke, hospitalization and even death.”

Centennial Hills Hospital Completes \$18 Million Expansion

Centennial Hills Hospital, located in northwest Las Vegas, recently completed its \$18.2 million expansion. The project built out the remaining two floors of the eight-story tower, adding 60 private patient rooms and over 200 additional parking spaces. The expansion increases the hospital’s licensed bed count to 250 compared to 165 beds when the hospital first opened in 2008.

“The development of the additional capacity was in direct response to the growth of our communities and wanting to ensure that our hospital kept up with the growing demands of these areas. Adding more patient rooms helps increase our community’s access to care,” said Sajit Pullarkat, CEO of Centennial Hills Hospital. “It allows us to move patients more quickly from the emergency department to a nursing unit where they can receive the appropriate level of care.”

Centennial Hills Hospital will open its Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center, located on the first floor of its medical office building, later this summer. Construction on the center began in early April. The wound care center will offer a complete range of services for patients suffering from chronic, non-healing wounds. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) will also be



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available, and is applied as a primary or secondary treatment for many conditions including bone infections that do not respond to standard treatment, crush injuries and reattachment of severed limbs, deep tissue injury from radiation therapy and skin grafts or flaps that are not healing.

Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican's Rose de Lima Campus Named Recipient of Healthgrades 2017 Patient Safety Excellence Award

Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican's Rose de Lima Campus announced that it is a recipient of the Healthgrades 2017 Patient Safety Excellence Award, a designation that recognizes superior performance in hospitals that have prevented the occurrence of serious, potentially avoidable complications for patients during hospital stays. The distinction places the Rose de Lima campus among the top 15% of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting patient safety data for its excellent performance as evaluated by Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. The Rose de Lima campus is the only hospital in southern Nevada to receive this distinction, and one of only four throughout Nevada.

"Patient safety has always been a top priority at each of our three campuses and our commitment to this hard-to-achieve measure shows that our work is paying off," said Brian Brannman, senior vice president of operations, Dignity Health Nevada. "I am very proud of this achievement, Teresa Conley (president/CEO of the Rose de Lima campus), and her amazing staff at the Rose de Lima campus."

"Hospitals who have been recognized as Healthgrades 2017 Patient Safety Excellence Award recipients have minimized patient safety events and also surpassed expectations in preventing safety incidents," said Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Healthgrades. "We applaud these hospitals for their performance and for their organizational commitment to delivering high-quality care."

Carson Tahoe Health Teaming Up with The Greenhouse Project to build the Foothill Garden

Carson Tahoe Health, a leading healthcare system in Northern Nevada, and The Greenhouse Project, an agricultural and education-based nonprofit, announced an expanded partnership to build the Foothill Garden on Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center's campus.

Located behind the Carson Tahoe Cancer Center in north Carson City, Foothill Garden will include a large hoop house and several raised plant beds. The garden will be managed by experts in growing produce in Nevada, worked by students who want to learn more about sustainability, and provide vegetables year-round to seniors in our community.

"There's something healing about connecting to the earth [through gardening]," said Karen Abowd, board president and co-founder of The Greenhouse Project. "Through our collaboration with Carson Tahoe Health, we'll be teaching people to produce their own healthy food and live more sustainably."



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“The Carson City Senior Center strives to serve wholesome food including fresh vegetables and herbs.” said Courtney Warner, Director of Carson Senior Center. “We’re grateful to be receiving locally grown produce to help keep our seniors healthy.”

The Foothill Garden, projected to be completed this summer, will complement Carson Tahoe’s existing Creekside Garden on the west side of the Regional Medical Center campus, which already donates seasonal produce to The Eagle Valley Children’s Home.

Banner Churchill Community Hospital Encourages to ‘Spring Clean’ Medicine Cabinets

With spring cleaning, one place in the home that is often overlooked is the medicine cabinet.

When it comes to medicines, prescription drugs in particular, many medications lose their effectiveness after the expiration date and some may even be toxic.

Bret Aiken, Emergency physician at **Banner Churchill Community Hospital**, stressed the importance of getting rid of expired prescription drugs and how they can sometimes cause harm.

Here are some tips for safe disposal:

1. Check the dates of everything in your medicine cabinet and discard any items that are past their expiration date.
2. For prescription drugs, it is recommended to discard any that are over a year old.
3. Any medications that have changed color or have a bad smell or taste should also be discarded.
4. Containers that are not properly labeled should be thrown out.
5. When throwing out medication:
 - a. Take unwanted medicine out of its original container and mix it with a substance like coffee or kitty litter so it cannot be re-used.
 - b. Place them in a sealable bag or container to prevent medication from leaking out of a garbage can.
 - c. Protect your privacy by removing personal information from the label before discarding.

Renown Becomes Nevada’s First National Safe Sleep Certified Hospital

Renown Children’s Hospital recently became the first hospital in Nevada to be recognized by the National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program, demonstrating its commitment to best practices and education on infant safe sleep.

With 4,000 infant sleep-related deaths in the U.S. annually, getting the word out about safe sleep practices is crucial to saving lives.



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“We are honored to lead the way in safe sleep in our state by educating families on safe sleep environments for infants,” said Natalie Nicholson, MBA, MSN, RN, CNML, director of nursing, Renown Children’s Hospital. “This certification is an example of the excellent teamwork we have at Renown as there were many employees involved with making this certification a reality.”

Renown Children’s Hospital achieved the highest level of certification as a certified Safe Sleep Champion. This certification requires a hospital to have a safe sleep policy in place and staff trained on the policy, offer education for parents, use sleep sacks instead of receiving blankets, provide community and media outreach on safe sleep and keep a record of progress and successes.

“We understand that it can be overwhelming to have a new baby in the house and with all the information coming at parents, we want to make sure we provide clear and simple guidance on safe sleep,” said Nicholson. “It’s important for caregivers to know what a safe sleep environment is – the baby is alone in a crib but sharing a room with the parents, on his or her back, and with no blankets, pillows, toys or loose bedding. We are giving parents a sleep sack as a gift to take home to continue the safe sleep practice.”

Henderson Hospital Uses Eco-Friendly Practices

Henderson Hospital opened its doors on October of last year having some of the latest technology and green practices available.

The 130-bed hospital is equipped with low-flow toilets, faucets and fixtures, which will contribute to an estimated 23 percent reduction in water usage over a standard building. The campus also features desert landscaping.

As part of its design and construction process, low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, adhesives and flooring were used, which helped decrease the amount of toxins in the air. VOC materials have a large vapor pressure that release at room temperature. Thirty-six bicycle racks are available for employees and visitors. The Security team also bikes around the campus during their patrols.

The facility has its own chilled water loop specifically for the operating rooms within the surgery and maternity departments. Because operating rooms are often cooler than the rest of the hospital, having a separate loop means it won’t drive the demand for the chilled water temperature of the entire hospital, thus contributing to energy savings.

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting is used in the majority of the hospital, offering energy economies of its lower power consumption. LED lights don’t generate as much heat as traditional lightbulbs, which means they require less cooling.

On cooler evenings, the hospital uses plate cooling instead of the chillers, thus reducing the electrical cost. Some common areas are set up on “economizer,” so on cool nights, 100 percent outside air is supplied, also bypassing the chillers and reducing the electrical cost.



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Within their private rooms, patients can operate their thermostats for preferred room temperature.



Nevada Healthcare Insurance Company, Inc., A Risk Retention Group (NHI) Honored With Hawaii Captive Insurance Council Annual Award

Originally formed in California, California Healthcare Insurance Company, Inc., A Risk Retention Group (CHI) expanded its territory to Nevada in 1999, and in 2014, registered to do business in the states of Oregon, Washington and Alaska. In the state of Nevada, CHI operates under the “doing business as” (DBA) name of Nevada Healthcare Insurance Company, A Risk Retention Group (NHI). CHI/NHI is designed to provide long term financial stability to the healthcare professional and general liability market through consistent pricing, broad coverage and premium rate stability during hard and soft markets.

CHI/NHI is one of more than 200 captive insurance companies domiciled in the state of Hawaii, and is the 4th longest-standing active captive insurance company licensed (domiciled) in the state. It’s solely focused on health care organizations including hospitals, physician groups and select long term care entities.

Matthew Takamine, Chair of the Hawaii Captive Insurance Council (HCIC) presented the corporate HCIC Award of Excellence to CHI/NHI at its Board of Directors meeting in February in Hawaii. The award is presented annually to a company and to an individual in recognition of “valuable contributions made over the years to promote, develop, and maintain the captive industry in the State of Hawaii.”

In addition to the corporate award, CHI/NHI is proud to announce its long time Hawaii corporate attorney, Gerald Yoshida, received the individual HCIC Award of Excellence for his contributions to the captive industry in Hawaii.
