

Careforce Connection

Your Link to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

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Children's Recognized for Innovation in Reducing Medication Events

When Children's launched the "Shh...We're in the MedZone" campaign in 2010 to improve medication safety, we looked to other industries to understand best practices in supporting the reduction of errors. Little did we realize that just a year later, other industries would be looking at us as an example of excellence. Last month, the [Los Angeles Times](#) featured a story highlighting a recent visit to Children's at Egleston by Don Berwick, M.D., administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

During his tour of the hospital, one of the quiet zones in front of a Pyxis machine in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) caught Dr. Berwick's attention. With its distinctive orange and gray posters and floor mats, the MedZone creates a quiet area where staff and physicians are reminded to not interrupt nurses when administering medications and reinforces the importance of completing the "5 Rights" and performing independent double-checks on High-Alert medications.

While the story erroneously reports that medication events have decreased by two-thirds since the MedZone launch, we have reduced serious medication events by more than 40 percent since the end of last year and nearly 70 percent since 2007. While the improvement is dramatic, the many factors that contribute to that success may be subtle in the day-to-day environment of a bustling patient care area.

"In the beginning, the change took a while getting used to," said Jamie Shropshire, a pediatric pharmacy specialist in one of the general care areas. "Now, we try to not even go in the MedZone and wait for someone to come out before speaking with them."

Lisa Davis, Medication Safety Officer, sees an opportunity in 2012 to increase medication safety awareness among staff outside of the immediate nursing area. She recounted a story told by a physician from another hospital where someone from environmental services stopped a nurse who was about to give a medication to a patient.

"The EVS employee noticed that the nurse hadn't checked the patient's identification first and spoke up," said Davis. "The nurse stopped what she was doing, checked the ID band and realized the medication was actually for another patient. When everyone at Children's is just as engaged in promoting medication safety—including non-clinical staff—we may just reach our goal of zero!"

Getting closer to Zero
Each year, Children's gets even closer to achieving that goal of zero. Gary Frank, M.D., Medical Director of Quality and Medical Management, put those numbers in real terms. Since CPOE and the medication safety awareness efforts, Children's has seen a decrease of six to seven serious medication events reported each month to just one or two per month.

"That means approximately 60 children each year not harmed from medications

Congratulations to our Strong4Life Scavenger Hunt Winners
Congratulations to the winners of part I of the Strong4Life Scavenger Hunt! Get ready for part II and another chance to win!
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Children's Recognizes November Catch Me at My Best Winners
Congratulations to the following employees for winning this month's [Catch Me at My Best](#) drawing for a Children's duffle bag.
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Three Children's Nurses Win Nurse of the Year Awards
Congratulations to Children's nurses Nancy Wagner, Angela Hawthorne and Thomas Flynn. They were each honored by the March of Dimes at the second annual Nurse of the Year Awards Nov. 19. Children's had a total of 29 nominees.
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Congratulations to the Top 25 Teams in the Fit4Fall Buddy Challenge
Congratulations to our first 25 teams to make it to Plymouth Rock, AL! You all did a fantastic job in your creative and fun team names and the Fit4Fall Buddy Challenge!
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New Careforce Connection Will Help You Find Your Way
Children's is launching a new and improved Careforce Connection Intranet site on **Monday, Dec. 12**. You've shared that it's not always easy to find what you are looking for on the site, so we're making some key changes.
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Learn How to Prevent, Recognize and React Responsibly to Child Sex Abuse with Stewards of Children Training
Are you outraged by the Penn State case? Find out what YOU can do to protect children!
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All the Small Things: Help Children's Celebrate Holiday Happenings



One Is Not
ZERO

<http://careforce/cms/default.aspx?id=1387&typeann=news&releaseaction=view&releasei...> 11/28/2011

they receive while under our care, enough to fill two or three classrooms in an elementary school," he said. "Our goal is zero."

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From now until Dec. 23, please keep your ears and eyes open for those special happenings with patients and staff. We'd love to share them with the community if possible and appropriate.

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Children's Leader Profile: Brett Lee

This summer, Brett Lee joined Children's as our new Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations. Now that he's settled in to his new role at Children's, we sat down with him to find out a little more about our newest member of the senior leadership team.

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Children's Share Campaign Will Send Messages of Hope to Patients During Holidays

We're hoping to gather more than 1, 280 messages for the children that will spend the holidays at our hospitals. Visit

[ShareWithChildrens.org](#). to learn more about this new campaign.

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Strong4Life Fall into Fitness Individual Steps Competition Starts is Under Way

The Strong4Life Fall into Fitness Individual Steps Competition is a four-week wellness competition for all employees. The goal of the competition is to encourage you to increase your physical activity before the holidays.

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Nominate a Children's Nurse for the ajcjobs Nursing Excellence Awards

Our Children's nurses go above and beyond each day. Let's recognize them for it. [Nominate](#) one (or several) of our amazing caregivers for the 7th annual ajcjobs Nursing Excellence Awards.

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It's Not Too Late to Update Your Biometrics and HRA by Dec. 31

Did you miss a wellness fair this year? If so, it's not too late to submit your biometrics to Atlanta Health Systems and complete your HRA before Dec. 31.

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Strong4Life Announces Participation in the Peachtree City Triathlon

Strong4Life is excited to announce our participation in the Peachtree City Triathlon on May 19. Benefitting Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, this triathlon offers two options: a sprint distance for the beginner and a longer international distance for the more experienced triathlete.