

THE Stethoscoop

November 25, 2024

UPMC Altoona's Student Nurse Newsletter



The SCOOP on units:

6E Surgical Progressive Care

6E SPCU is a 28-bed progressive care unit serving adult patients.

Patients are seen on this dynamic, fast-paced floor with a wide variety of medical diagnoses, surgical procedures, and trauma injuries. They require surgical, trauma, and cardiopulmonary progressive care.

The SPCU (Surgical Progressive Care Unit) is the only critical care surgical trauma stepdown unit specializing in chest tube management. Staff assists with bedside procedures and sees all types of postsurgical patients, with a specialty in cardiac, vascular, and thoracic.

SPCU nurses are skilled in complex diagnoses and respiratory-compromised situations requiring BiPAP/CPAP, high flow oxygenation, and continuous pulse oximetry. Staff is trained in epidurals, PCA pumps, and complex IV drips requiring telemetry monitoring.



"If you thrive in a fast-paced environment and want new learning opportunities daily, SPCU is the place. We provide patients the ideal experience, because exceptional quality and safety drive us. Specializing in surgical and trauma patients brings unique challenges. We would love to have you join the SPCU family!"

— Jason A Kubat, MSN, RN

Unit director, 6E/Surgical Progressive Care

Student nurses earns DAISY Award®

Intern **Kelsey Crittendon**, a Saint Francis University student, is a spring 2024 DAISY award winner.

Kelsey was a student extern spring semester and her nomination said she was wonderful with all her patients. She was always proactive with patient care, an active listener with each patient, and was often found at the bedside providing a helping hand to patients and staff. Kelsey kept her head held high and will transition into a hardworking RN, the nomination concluded.



Intern **Marie Horell**, a Penn State Altoona student, is our summer 2024 DAISY award winner.

Marie's nominator said her focus is always on her patients. She is organized, keeps busy, and is regularly looking for learning opportunities. Her dedication has been recognized by patients and staff. She says the best things about her internship were the learning opportunities and gaining confidence with the basic nursing skills she learned in her clinicals.



Marie will transition to a student nurse PCT after her internship to better prepare her for the start of her career after she graduates next May.

DAISY stands for "Diseases Attacking the Immune System" and is part of an international recognition program of the DAISY Foundation honoring and celebrating the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day.



Student-friendly unit contest

It's time to choose the fall 2024 "Most Student-Friendly Unit." Please vote for the UPMC Altoona unit you feel is the most welcoming to nursing students.

Please scan QR code or click [link](#) to cast your vote. Votes are due no later than Dec. 3.



UPMC Bridges

UPMC Bridges is an organization-wide transformative effort to enhance patient care delivery, streamline operations, and upgrade the UPMC Experience. Transitioning to a single, unified electronic health record platform powered by Epic will lead to more efficient care delivery for our providers and care teams and enable UPMC to continue expanding access to care.

Epic workgroups are nearing the end of the decision/design phase and progressing into content review sessions. Tentative Epic go-live is planned to roll out in two waves. Wave 1 is slated for the end of 2025 with wave 2 planned for the first half of 2026.

Altoona is tentatively scheduled to be part of the initial roll-out period.

For additional information on this project, search "UPMC Bridges" on Infonet.

The **SCOOP** on units: 5F Pediatric Acute Care

This 12-bed unit treats medical, surgical, pediatric, and bariatric patients.

Nurses are attracted to 5F by the complexity of patients and the teamwork of staff members. Leadership takes time with staff to meet their needs and help them develop career paths along the way.



Nurses on this unit must obtain training in pediatric advanced life support within one year of hire.

"The 5F team is like a family, helping each other provide excellent care for our patients."

— Kevin Pruznak, MSN, RN-BC
Senior clinician, 5F Pediatric Acute Care



Student nurses celebrated

UPMC Altoona held a Student Nurse Week celebration in October.

All student nurses who completed clinical education at UPMC Altoona were invited to attend a celebration events the week of Oct. 7 through 11. Students enjoyed a lunch and games in keeping with the tailgate theme of the week. They also had the opportunity to talk with nursing and talent acquisition leaders.

Hannah Patterson, a student at Mount Aloysius, won the week's grand prize—a \$50 Amazon gift card and Yeti tumbler.

UPMC Altoona is proud to provide clinical opportunities for multiple nursing programs, including Mount Aloysius, Penn State, Saint Francis, UPJ, GACTC, and Allegheny College of Maryland.



Disability documentation in the EHR - CHRIS form

Upon admission, transfer, or handoff, staff must ask patients at their earliest encounter about any disability-related needs or necessary accommodations, and document the response in the electronic health record where applicable on the CHRIS form.

If the patient has a disability, additional fields on the form will open for completion. Be sure to complete "Personal Disability Items with Patient" document needed accommodations on the patient's white board.



Employment Opportunities



STUDENT NURSE INTERNSHIPS
UPMC Altoona Student Nurse Internship



NURSING STUDENTS
<https://careers.upmc.com/nursing>



GRADUATE NURSES
UPMC Altoona GN Opportunities