

Healthcare Associated Infections: Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus," won first place in the health systems category as well as a second place Josh Nelson Special Achievement Award for Infection Prevention and Control.

Traditionally, individual facilities have managed the prevention of healthcare-acquired infections by implementing CDC guidelines. The director of the executive team of IHCA, Eastside's parent organization, worked with a senior organizational working group to develop goals for achievement, including aggressive infection control measures to reduce occurrences of MRSA. Each facility in the health system implemented its own objectives and processes.

Emory Eastside's objectives included active surveillance screening to determine colonized patients (those with MRSA) in those admitted to critical care, those transferred from other healthcare facilities, those undergoing select cardiac, joint, open spine or hernia/surgery, and those with a history of MRSA.



Part of the initiative was to identify MRSA in patients and quickly take action to protect other patients. Electronic communication helped alert infection control staff to areas where intervention was needed.

Staff responded promptly to patients identified as colonized, thus decreasing the risk of MRSA transmission to other patients. The electronic communication ensured timely isolation precautions for colonized patients. Overall, Emory Eastside anticipates a significant reduction in the rate of healthcare-acquired infections caused by MRSA.

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Rockdale Echo Lab Granted Accreditation

The echocardiography laboratory at **Rockdale Medical Center**, Corvallis, GA, was granted accreditation by the International Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEEL).

The ICAEEL was established with the support of the American Society of Echocardiography, the American College of Cardiology and the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography to provide a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality echocardiographic

■ NAMES & FACES

NC Leaders Among 2008 AONE Fellows

Catherine Cochran, RN, Moses Cone Health System, Greensboro, NC, and **Lou Anne Griffin, RN, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital**, Pinehurst, NC, were recently named fellows of the **American Organization of Nurse Executives**.

Cochran and Griffin are among 30 participants who will begin a yearlong fellowship Feb. 7 with a 5-day meeting. The program is designed to meet the practice needs of the nurse manager and prepare the next generation of executive-level nurse leaders.

NP Joins Carolina Center For Integrative Medicine

The **Carolina Center for Integrative Medicine**, Raleigh, NC, has welcomed **Meredith Frazier, MSN, APRN, BC**, as its new nurse practitioner.

Frazier will see new patients, as well as manage NP room operations. She has experience in cardiology, respiratory, neurology and surgery.

Mission Health Names VP of Heart Services

Mission Health & Hospitals, Asheville, NC, has named **Elizabeth Majorana, MBA, MNA, RN**, vice president of heart services.

Majorana previously served as vice president of cardiovascular services for the West Florida Division of HCA Healthcare in Palm Harbor, FL. Prior to this, she served as the corporate clinical executive for cardiovascular services at Huron Health in Youngstown, OH, and as the director of the cardiovascular service line at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

Children's Health Welcomes Specialty Care Manager

Elhica Spencer, MSN, RN, has joined the staff of **Children's Health System**, Birmingham, AL, as

director of specialty care for all outpatient surgery/OP-ORs.

Spencer is a former Children's inpatient nurse and most recently served as an outpatient case manager for the Veterans Administration hospital in Birmingham.

Critical Care Director Named at Northeast Georgia

Gary Pollock, BA, RN, has been named director of critical care at **Northeast Georgia Medical Center**, Gainesville.

Pollock is responsible for administrative management of critical care areas including the ICUs at the main campus and Lane Park campus.

"I really feel welcome here," Pollock said. "I have been getting an overview of where we are, and I'm really excited about being here. I want to make the intensive care areas the best they can be."

Pollock comes to Northeast Georgia from Munster Medical Center in Ocala, FL, where he worked for 20 years. Most recently, he served as director of patient files.

Shepherd Presents Chief Nurse Executive Awards

Shepherd Center has announced recipients of its Chief Nurse Executive Awards for 2007. The awards recognize members of Shepherd's nursing staff in three individual categories for displaying excellence in their field during the previous year.

In the category recognizing staff at charge nurses, **Eric Hudson, RN**, of spinal cord injury rehab, was honored. **Glenn Prescott, RN**, of nursing administration, was honored in the management/education category. Patient care technical secretary honors went to **Edith Carmichael** of acquired brain injury rehab.



Gary Pollock, BA, RN

diagnostic evaluations by a process of voluntary accreditation.

Participation in the accreditation process is voluntary. Accreditation status signifies that the

facility has been reviewed by an independent agency that recognizes the laboratory's commitment to quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease. ■