Students Explore Health Care Careers

from Sanford Health System and Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation Inc. MacArthur Middle School in Lawton, Comanche County Memorial Hospital has covered the majority of the program's costs and donated scrub tops for the students to wear as they participate in activities.

The HealthExplore™ program between the middle schools and hospitals are Cindy Parks, enrichment teacher of Duncan Middle School, Cyndi Crook, education coordinator for Comanche County Memorial Hospital and Kayte Jackson-Seeley, eighth-grade counselor and activities director of MacArthur Middle School. HealthExplore™ operates through a partnership between the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center and Mad Science of Central Oklahoma. For more information about HealthExplore™, visit www.ohcwc.org or call (405) 319-8690.

Medication Errors: Reduce Your Risk

Experts estimate that nearly 98,000 people die in medical errors each year. A significant number of these deaths are due to medication errors.1 The National Coordinating Council for Medication Error and Prevention defines a medication error as "any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm while the medication is in the control of the health care professional, patient, or consumer."2

Mistakes can happen

As a nurse, you dispense medication to your patients on a regular basis. Consequently, you're charged with knowing the "five rights" in administering medication—right patient, right drug, right dose, right time, and right route. And while you take every precaution to avoid making errors that may put your patients at risk, mistakes can happen.

Reduce your risk

To reduce your risk of liability, take the time to read medication labels carefully. Further, understanding those you're not familiar with. It's also your responsibility to know the drug's dosage range, possible adverse effects, toxicity levels, indications and contraindications. Understand the medications you administer and don't hesitate to ask questions. Consult your nurse drug guide, the physician, a pharmacist or your supervisor if you have any questions.

Financial Assistance For Nursing Students

Each day, we remind there are not enough nurses in Oklahoma. Employment of nurses is expected to grow as more trained nurses become available. Through educational assistance, the State of Oklahoma is committed in helping to provide well-trained nurses for the care of people in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Nursing Student Assistance Program, established by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1982, provides financial assistance to as many nursing students as funds allow. If a scholarship recipient works as a nurse in Oklahoma upon graduation, the financial assistance does not have to be repaid. Financial assistance is available for selected qualified students pursuing LPN, AIN, BSN, or MSN degrees.

With the addition of 261 new nursing student recipients, the Physician Manpower Training Commission will have provided 5,259 total scholarships for nursing students in Oklahoma since 1982 when the scholarship was created. This program has provided nurses to all 77 counties in Oklahoma with an emphasis placed on the rural communities.

Currently, we have 313 nurses that received funding through our program fulfilling their work obligation throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Further information is available on the web-site of the Physician Manpower Training Commission. The web-site is www.pmtc.ok.gov. The new application will be available on the web site, March 10. The application is also provided to nursing schools, hospitals and nursing homes in the State of Oklahoma for distribution.

Physician Manpower Training Commission

The Oklahoma Nurse • Page 19