Infusion Center Expansion

More Options for Individualized Care

The Leo and Gloria Rosen Infusion Center at Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center has a new addition — an 18-chair unit designated specifically for intravenous antibiotic therapy. Open since October 2010 under the direction of Medical Director, Massoud G. Dezfuli, DO, MS and Clinical Director Susan Sagle, RN, the new unit is an extension of the current center located in the same building that provides a range of services including chemotherapy, hydration therapy and blood transfusions.

Patient comfort and individualized care are paramount at the Infusion Center, which provides a serene environment for patients to receive treatments. Clinical Director Susan Sagle, RN, (seated) and Infusion Nurse Jessica Bernette, RN, attend to patient Virginia Pando.

According to Dr. Dezfuli, the expansion was prompted by a desire to individualize care, increase patient safety and reduce risk of infection for the center's patients. "Ultimately, we wanted to isolate the patients that might have infections from patients who might be immunocompromised," says Dr. Dezfuli, an infectious disease specialist. "While we take all sorts of precautions to prevent transmission of infection — aseptic technique, cleaning every chair after each treatment and cleaning rooms after all treatments are completed — the two separate units will help reduce the potential for infection even further."

Patient comfort and individualized care are paramount at the Infusion Center, which provides a serene environment for patients to receive treatments. The new 18-chair unit features modern recliners and individual TVs, as well as several private rooms. Meals, juices and snacks are provided for patients whose treatments can last anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours. "When you look at where medicine is going, a lot of the patients really prefer going to an outpatient center for their regular treatments. We are aware of this trend and hope to connect the Infusion Center with other areas of the Medical Center … so we can all work together to make procedures and treatment more convenient for patients."
—Dr. Dezfuli

The center is staffed with chemotherapy-certified nurses and nursing assistants that flex between both areas. Patients also have access to an intake nurse they can contact before their appointment. "This helps us accommodate any personal needs a patient might have, and patients come to their appointment knowing what to expect," says Sagle. "We always do patient education with our patients, but having a designated nurse available for them to contact really helps put their minds at

ease." Patients also have access to Dr. Dezfuli, Sagle, and an on-site pharmacist during their visits if they have concerns or questions.

Sherrie Reed, a 51-year-old woman with metastatic breast cancer and a former nurse, has been receiving blood transfusions two times a week at the Infusion Center since 2010. "They do a fantastic job here of making the care individualized instead of a one-size-fits-all approach. The staff is professional and makes decisions based on a patient's individual needs and diagnosis," says Reed. "For instance, I'm getting blood transfusions, but it is important that the staff knows how my chemotherapy influences the need for blood and vice versa, so I really appreciate the highly trained nursing staff."

Dr. Dezfuli hopes to see further expansion of the Center in the future. "When you look at where medicine is going, a lot of the patients really prefer going to an outpatient center for their regular treatments. We are aware of this trend and hope to connect the Infusion Center with other areas of the Medical Center such as interventional radiology and wound care so we can all work together to make procedures and treatment more convenient for patients."

The new unit is currently open seven days a week while the main unit is looking to expand to Saturday hours.

For more information about the Leo and Gloria Rosen Infusion Center, call 760-773-1500.

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