



Experiencing a hospital stay around the holiday is especially hard; Doctors Wierman, Vega, Sanders, B. Patel, Mamou and K. Patel hope that being cared for by a familiar face makes it a little less so

## Concentrated Care from Local Doctors Who Care!

A hospital stay can be very stressful and quite complicated, especially if you are being treated by a number of doctors.

This is why Sturgis Hospital and Sturgis Medical Group physicians created the Family Medicine Service Hospitalist program - a team of qualified, local physicians dedicated to coordinating and overseeing all your inpatient medical needs.

“The Family Medicine Service is comprised of local medical physicians who specialize in the care of hospitalized patients,” said Rob LaBarge, Sturgis Hospital President and CEO. “We were thrilled when our doctors proposed this new kind of arrangement because it assures

both the patients and their physicians that ongoing and immediate care will be provided continuously – round-the-clock – during their hospital stay.”

This new hybrid physician not only cares for an inpatient’s immediate needs, but also serves as a conduit to all physicians and specialists involved.

“Our hospitalists are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day to provide ongoing and immediate care,” LaBarge said, “that means more timely responses to test results, better communication to specialists and patient families, and consistent quality of care though out the patient’s hospital stay. In addition, these programs are being embraced by many medical facilities, because they enable hospitals to provide better patient care while increasing efficiency, reducing costs,” he added.

“We started this type of program at Sturgis Hospital but customized it to suit our patient’s needs,” said Dr. Keyur Patel, a Sturgis-area physician and a team member of Sturgis Family Medicine. “Unlike other hospitals, which often hire an outside service, Sturgis Hospital chose to use its own local physicians to be involved in the care of its patients.

This is the better way, we feel, to provide excellent patient care to everyone that stays at Sturgis Hospital.”

Dr. Patel said that while it’s a little different way of doing it, it will enable patients to see local physicians. “Seeing a local doctor that you are familiar with leads to better care and better communication,” he said. “It’s all part of making sure we provide excellent care to all our patients.”

With medical decisions often needing to be made quickly - as situations arise - having a familiar physician present, makes it possible for medical treatments to be modified and test results followed-up on at a more rapid pace.

“This ‘ever presence’ of a familiar physician helps to prevent medical complications, reduce hospital stays and lower costs,” LaBarge said. “It also results in more rapid and accurate clinical decision making for better outcomes and fewer re-admissions.”

In the same way that cardiologists specialize in the care of heart patients, a Hospitalist is trained to specialize in the care of hospitalized patients.

“We strive to provide healthcare that is evidence-based,” said Hospitalist Group member, Dr. Kellie Sanders. “We aim to treat all our patients in a timely fashion and help to get them home with a speedy recovery. That’s our goal.”

With high-quality medical services available locally, there’s no need to travel long distances, especially difficult in the winter months.

“We have a great on-site radiology services,” said Dr. Patel. “We have topnotch anesthesiologists, endoscopy services - and more – all in the convenience of our community. This means that you and your loved ones won’t have to endure long drive times, lengthy wait times for tests and exams and, it means avoiding the congestion often found in larger cities along with those unfamiliar faces.”

It is comforting to know that there is a highly-qualified, local medical staff - continuously available - in the convenience of the Sturgis community!

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