



Healing Environment: Work Together, Deliver Excellence

Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Team

When a patient arrives for their first appointment in the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Department at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital or Froedtert West Bend Hospital they are readily greeted by the entire team that will be caring for them over the course of 12-18 weeks. That team consists of clinical nurses, exercise physiologists and dietitians who collaborate daily to provide exceptional care. From the very first appointment, the cardiopulmonary rehabilitation team works closely with the patient, taking into consideration their specific needs, goals and abilities before identifying an appropriate program and selecting a schedule that meets their needs.

Patients are seen for a variety of situations, such as stent placement, heart or lung transplant, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) and heart failure, among others. A patient's time in the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Department is spent in a myriad of ways and may consist of completing an exercise program, learning about heart health, healthy dieting or healthy mindset, and thorough medication teaching. Throughout the program, data is collected, goals are assessed and reassessed and the team communicates with the patient to ensure their needs are being met.

Upon graduating from a program, patients receive a certificate and ring a gong to mark their accomplishment in prioritizing their health. Graduations are bittersweet moments for the team, with the real prize being the success of patients they work with and learn about for weeks. Patients often send thank you cards along with updates on things they have accomplished such as playing with their grandchildren and even completing a triathlon, which may not have happened if it weren't for the dedication and collaboration of the cardiopulmonary rehab team at Froedtert Menomonee Falls and Froedtert West Bend Hospitals.



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Making A Difficult Time Easier With Hospice Kits

In fall 2022, Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital and Froedtert West Bend Hospital implemented hospice kits on each inpatient unit through a collaboration with Volunteer Services and Horizon Hospice. The hospice kits contain a blanket made by volunteers, a notepad, pen, and lip balm from Horizon Hospice, as well as written resources on death and dying. In addition to the kit, an inked handprint and a small memento can be requested by those who want to keep the memory of their family member close at hand on a day-to-day basis. A nurse provides a hospice kit with the intent to comfort families during an otherwise difficult time.

Hospice kits are put together by Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital volunteer Trudy Droese who has spent years contributing to the hospital. Trudy recalls working as a nurse the night Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital (formerly Community Memorial Hospital) opened in July 1964. She always looked forward to going to work, even with double shifts and tough moments. The patient care team was truly a family. After 40 years working as a nurse in the Medical/Surgical Unit, Modified Care Unit, Intensive Care Unit and education, she retired in 2000 and became a volunteer in between caring for her grandchildren. Trudy is amazed at the growth and community impact the hospital has had over the years and continues to make her own impact on the care of patients with hospice kits.



Trudy Droese, Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital volunteer