



Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees
April 7 – April 13, 2025

Parkland hosting National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 26

P.2 In-person quality
and safety lecture

P.3 Join the CHNA Lunch
& Learn on April 10

P.3 HRO Learning Series
session on April 15

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Parkland hosting National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 26

Expired, unused and unwanted medications in our homes can possibly end up in the wrong hands and lead to something tragic. To prevent accidents and improper disposal of potentially harmful substances, Parkland Health and the Dallas County Hospital District (DCHD) Police Department are participating in the 27th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The event, which happens twice a year, is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs, according to Captain Steve Sedlak with the DCHD Police Department.

Parkland will host the take-back from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the Simmons Ambulatory Surgery Center (4900 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, 75235). The event is free and open to the public. Community members can hand the medications to a law enforcement officer with no questions asked.

During the October 2024 Take Back Day, the community once again emptied their medicine cabinets to help dispose of old, unwanted and expired medications. Nationwide, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and its law enforcement partners collected 629,953 pounds (314 tons) of unneeded medications at 4,644 collection sites, including Parkland, nationwide. Since the Take Back Day began in 2008, there has been 19,200,440 pounds (9,600 tons) of old, unwanted and expired medications collected across the country.

Medicines in the home are a leading cause of accidental poisonings in the U.S., according to staff with the North Texas Poison Center located at Parkland. While prescription medications aid in the treatment of many diseases and health problems, it is important to dispose expired or unused medicine properly to avoid these accidents. While there are several ways to dispose of unwanted or expired medicine, Drug Take Back Day is the safest option for your family and the environment. For more information about the proper way to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications, contact the poison experts at the North Texas Poison Center at Parkland, 1-800-222-1222, or visit www.poisoncontrol.org.



▼ In-person quality and safety lecture with Don Berwick, MD



We are excited to announce that we will be hosting Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP, FRCP, on campus, Tuesday, April 15. All staff are invited to attend his in-person lecture titled "What Happened to Quality" at 8 a.m. in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium. Seating is first come, first served. This will not be available via WebEx.

Dr. Berwick is president emeritus and senior fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and former administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) during the Obama administration. He has also served on the faculty of the Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, and on the staffs of Boston's Children's Hospital Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Berwick was the vice chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the first independent member of the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees, and chair of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He served two terms on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Governing Council, was a member of the IOM's Global Health Board, and served on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Berwick to Parkland!



► Mark your calendars for Patient Safety Awareness Week

Parkland will celebrate Patient Safety Awareness Week beginning Saturday, April 19, through Friday, April 25. This year's theme is "Moving the Needle: Transforming Awareness into Action." Parkland will host daily events and activities that provide growing awareness about patient and workforce safety and the ongoing expectation to move the needle closer to the safest care possible.

Join us as we welcome guest speaker Phillip Chang, MD, SVP & Chief Medical and Quality Officer, Memorial Hermann Health System, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, April 21. Additional details will be communicated as the week nears. We hope to see you as we promote the amazing patient safety efforts happening at Parkland and work to make them even better.

▼ Lasting Impressions: Gina Harrison



Each week, "Lasting Impressions" features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week's "Lasting Impressions" features Gina Harrison, Senior Registered Nurse – Oncology, Palliative Care.

"In Palliative Care, we deal with very sick patients (most of whom are approaching end-of-life), and Gina goes above and beyond to make these patients comfortable as they deal with anticipated grief. Since joining our team two years ago, Gina has diligently worked on improving the outpatient clinic workflow. Gina also created and spearheads the Ambulatory Process Improvement Committee (APIC), which ensures safe and timely processes for Palliative Care patients. Gina is always empathetic and pleasant as she cares for these vulnerable patients, even on days when we are short-staffed. Gina is a true gem and practices the ICARE values daily to guide her behavior, how she interacts with others and how she serves our patients. The Palliative Care and Oncology teams are honored by her presence every day!"



Want to nominate an employee who goes above and beyond? Tell us what makes them so fantastic by emailing Employees@phhs.org or calling ext. 28048.

Schedule an appointment with OnSight Eyes

As part of our ongoing commitment to the well-being of our employees, we're pleased to offer OnSight Eyes on the Parkland campus Tuesday, May 13, through Thursday, May 15. This provides employees currently enrolled in Parkland's vision plan a convenient opportunity to receive vision care at Parkland.

Services provided include:

- Eye exam (covered by Parkland's vision plan)
- Selection of glasses and eyewear for employees – covered by Parkland's vision plan and available to employees with a valid, outside prescription
- Contact lens exams for existing wearers only

OnSight Eyes will offer these services next to the Employee Health Center in the Moody Outpatient Center 4th Floor Conference Room (MOC 04-1100) May 13-15. Vision plan copays will apply, and appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, [click here](#).

► Join the CHNA Lunch & Learn on April 10

From noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, Parkland will host a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Lunch & Learn focused on Correctional Health. Join this webinar to hear how, through the Community Health Needs Assessment, Correctional Health Services is screening and treating sexually transmitted infections in the Dallas County jail system.

Speakers:

- Patrick Jones, MHA, Vice President, Correctional Health Services
- Barry-Lewis Harris II, MD, CCHP, Medical Director & Chief, Correctional Health Services

[Click here](#) to register to attend upcoming CHNA Lunch & Learn Webinars.

► HRO Learning Series session on April 15

Please join us for the HRO Learning Series, a monthly educational offering that provides an overview of the Universal and Leader Skills themes of the month. The next session will take place at noon on Tuesday, April 15.

Join using the Webex information below.

- **Join Webex**
- **Meeting number (access code):** 2304 173 3017
- **Meeting password:** H9kenWinC37 (49536946 when dialing from a phone or video system)

To ensure you do not miss an event, register for the webinar series by clicking [here](#). If you're unable to attend, a recording will be posted to the HRO website, [High Reliability Organization \(HRO\) - Home](#), under the HRO Learning Series icon. Please allow a few days grace to allow for video editing. Email any questions or concerns to QualitySafetyOperations@phhs.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

JOURNEY TO → HIGH
RELIABILITY

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Stop by to learn more about advance directives

Please join the Institutional Ethics Committee event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, to learn more about advance directives. The event will be held at two locations: outside Park Market and in the conference room behind Starbucks in the Moody Outpatient Center.

Interdisciplinary team members from the committee will be present to share information about these important written documents that let patients share their wishes for treatment with healthcare providers if they become too sick to speak for themselves at a later time. It is important that we know our patients' beliefs, values and desires about medical care, so we can help them make their health choices.

► Apply to host a summer intern

Interested in receiving additional help from an intern this summer? Our summer internship applications are now open, and we are looking for hosting departments! More details around our summer internship programs and how to apply can be found on this flyer.

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 25. For additional questions, please contact us at WDInternshipPrograms@phhs.org.

Congratulations!

- Cynthia Bavi, Senior Registered Nurse, 7 Antepartum, recently graduated with her Master of Science in Nursing degree for Family Nurse Practitioner

April healthcare observances*

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

April 7: World Health Day

April 10: National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day

April 16: Annual National Healthcare Decisions Day

April 17: World Hemophilia Day

April 25: DNA Day

April 26: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work

April 30: APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day

April 7-13: National Public Health Week

April 11-17: Black Maternal Health Week

April 13-19: Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week

April 20-26: Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, National Pediatric Transplant Week, Pediatric Sepsis Week, National Infertility Awareness Week, World Immunization Week

April 21-25: Every Kid Healthy Week

April 21-26: Neurodiagnostic Week

April 28-May 4: National Infant Immunization Week, Patient Experience Week

Alcohol Awareness Month

Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month

Medicaid Awareness Month

National Autism Awareness Month

National Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month

National Donate Life Month

National Facial Protection Month

National Interprofessional Healthcare Month

National Minority Health Month

National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month

Occupational Therapy Month

Oral Cancer Awareness Month

Parkinson's Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month

STI Awareness Month

Stress Awareness Month

Testicular Cancer Awareness Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

*The list of healthcare observations comes from www.healthgrades.com as well as the Society for Healthcare Strategy & Market Development calendar. If an observation was omitted, call 214-590-8048 (ext. 28048) or email Employees@phhs.org to add it to the list.



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Care. Compassion. Community.

Parkland Now is published by the Corporate Communications department at Parkland Health.

Please note the submission deadline for each issue of *Parkland Now* is by the end of day each Monday.

To publicize your news in *Parkland Now*, please send all submissions to Employees@phhs.org or call ext. 28048.