Click these stories

Nursing Honor Guard
To pay respect for nurses who have passed away, Beaumont nurses form an Honor Guard

T-shirt pick-up
Participating in a spring walk? Check out how you can get a Beaumont Health T-shirt

When the employee becomes the patient
Theresa Marcus never thought she’d be the one receiving cancer treatment from her co-workers

Eagle Eye Salwa Beydoun
“Sometimes speaking up and stopping a test or a surgery takes some guts and Salwa stopped the test and prevented further harm to this patient.”

Coming soon!
Consumer website helps patients navigate Beaumont

The first phase of the new beaumont.org, the website for consumers interested in learning about Beaumont Health, will launch on Thursday, April 28. The site offers a newly branded design, streamlined navigation, improved functionality and content focused on patient- and family-centered care.

During the next several months, features and content from the founding organizations’ websites will be integrated into the site—nearly 25,000 pages worth—phasing out the founding websites by the end of the year.

Optimized for use on all home, work or mobile devices, this user-friendly website offers important resources, such as a new “Find a Doctor” directory and referral service with information on our more than 5,000 Beaumont physicians from all eight hospitals.

Uninsured patients will now be able to view pricing information to seek estimated costs on many common adult procedures and tests. This feature will be launched in early May and will include an online chat with a financial representative.

All patients will have access to a variety of tools. Legacy Beaumont’s myChart and legacy Oakwood’s myRecord, will allow patients to access health care records, including:

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New website
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

- medications
- allergies
- lab results
- hospital summaries

The website will provide health and wellness news and list health classes offered throughout the community. The latest Beaumont Health news stories will also be available on the home page. And a new online class registration system will launch in the summer.

Be sure to visit beaumont.org and check it out on April 28!

The new Find a Doctor feature

The new, combined physician directory and physician referral elements will be introduced in phases. The intent is to have a consumer-friendly, patient-focused tool to allow current and prospective patients the ability to search for doctors by name, specialty or both.

Consumers will see:
- office and practice information
- insurances accepted
- education
- board certification
- residency
- gender
- languages spoken
- Beaumont Health hospital affiliation
- video interviews
- years in practice
- current Beaumont Health portrait

A “schedule an appointment” button will appear that allows consumers to connect directly with the Beaumont Health Contact Center to ask questions and get assistance with appointment scheduling.

The next phase of the Find a Doctor tool will allow searching by conditions and treatments.

The new pricing feature

The new pricing tool will launch in early May and provide uninsured patients with costs for common procedures from knee replacement, gallbladder removal and C-sections to diagnostic and laboratory testing like MRIs, CAT scans or CBCs. The tool will also connect patients to financial counselors to answer questions and provide a better understanding of health care costs. Pricing is based on self-pay costs and are estimates.

“This website tool was a best practice from legacy Oakwood, and we’ve now enhanced it on the new website,” says Lynn Flynn, vice president, Beaumont Health Revenue Cycle. “Many patients still have no insurance and are self-pay. They want to understand their financial commitment. Our first step was to unify pricing across the system. Now a patient can find pricing online for a procedure at all Beaumont Health hospitals and outpatient facilities. We also have someone consumers can talk to about additional costs patients might incur and determine how they can pay.”

Be sure to check out the Discount Directory for all the latest discounts for Beaumont Health team members. Also, be sure to check out the Travel Opportunities available through Employee Services.
Show of respect: Nursing Honor Guard gains in popularity

A way of honoring nurses who have passed away is becoming popular throughout Beaumont Health.

The program, which began at legacy Oakwood in 2011, is called the Nursing Honor Guard. The honor guard, made up of current nurses, wearing nurses’ capes and carrying a lantern reminiscent of the one Florence Nightingale carried, visit funeral homes and gravesites.

“It’s all very military,” said Lisa Muma, a nurse navigator in pediatric oncology at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. “They go to funeral homes, read “A Nurse’s Prayer” and then say the name of the nurse three times. If they don’t respond, it’s said they’ve been relieved of their duties.” The family is then given a white rose in remembrance.

Lisa is part of the Nursing Honor Guard program, which is designed to honor Beaumont nurses, current or retired, who have passed away during the year. Beaumont, Royal Oak will start the program May 13, the day after Nurses Week, which is May 6-12. May 12 is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who was born in 1820 in Florence, Italy and was known as “The lady with the lamp.”

Maureen Elliott, who works in Community Affairs and Government Relations at Beaumont, Royal Oak, and is part of the program, said the honor guard will be a first for her hospital.

The program started five years ago at Beaumont Hospital, Dearborn and is now under the care of Edie English, director of Nursing at Beaumont Hospital, Taylor.

“Karen Hughes, who no longer works with us, was the originator of the honor guard,” Edie said. “She heard about it from Good Samaritan Hospital and took after them.”

Edie added that the honor guard has been to 15-20 funerals. “Sometimes it’s tough to get people together to be in the honor guard because often it’s on very short notice,” she said. Typically, the honor guard is made up of nurses known by the deceased.

An article about the honor guard was published in an issue of “The Academy of Medical Surgical Nursing,” which Edie said helped the program become popular at other Michigan hospitals.

The honor guard is open to any Beaumont nurse who would care to join. To join or for further information, contact Edie English, 313-375-7090.

Participating in a spring walk? Get your Beaumont Health T-shirt

Are you participating in a Beaumont Health-sponsored walk this spring—maybe the Walk for Miracles, the Heart Walk or the Arthritis Walk? If you are, show your pride in where you work and arrange to wear a Beaumont Health T-shirt.

Simply email the person from the list below who works at the campus closest to you.

Beaumont Hospital, Dearborn
Susan Cheresko
Administration
Susan.Cheresko@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills
Brenda Boris-Blaze
Administration
Brenda.Boris-Blaze@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe
Suzy Berschback
Community Affairs
Suzanne.Berschback@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak
Darlene Niksic
Community Affairs
Darlene.Niksic@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Taylor
Pri Austin
Oakwood Healthcare Foundation

Laprissa.Austin@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Trenton
Sherry Iafelice
Administration
Sherry.Iafelice@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Troy
Julie Kitchen
Community Affairs
Julie.Kitchen@beaumont.org

Beaumont Hospital, Wayne
Lori Barko
Administration
Lori.Barko@beaumont.org
Diseases run in families. Heart conditions. Autoimmune diseases. Cancer. That last one had the power to direct Theresa Marcus, 37, into a career choice since she’d lost both grandmothers and other family members to it far too early. Employed by Beaumont Health for 16 years, she serves in a dual role as administrative assistant to the chair of the Hematology-Oncology department and as coordinator of the department’s fellowship program.

In 2013, Theresa was diagnosed with the family-inherited colon cancer. Like most people hearing a colon cancer diagnosis for the first time, she desperately wanted to retreat from what felt like a nightmare. She feared what the coming months would bring and how it would affect not only her, but also her children Ben, 8, and Hannah, 7, and husband David.

Her journey brought surgery to remove the cancer and six months of chemotherapy along with pain, fear and sickness. But, it also deepened Theresa’s personal bonds with her boss Ishmael Jaiyesimi, D.O.; the seven hematology-oncology fellows in her program; and the faculty member who became her oncologist.

“Their support was massive. They were always there for me. They understood what I was going through.”

Dr. Susanna Gaikazian, my wonderful oncologist, drew the short straw when the faculty met to decide who’d be in charge of my care. Having to give bad news to a friend can be extremely stressful for physicians,” Theresa said. “Thankfully, she sees it differently and treats me like family. She spent a lot of time with my parents to calm their fears and reassure them.”

The fellows supported Theresa in ways great and small: offering encouragement, sharing research knowledge, introducing her to cancer connections around the country and answering her questions. They even offered Bible scriptures, which she found especially meaningful. They would check on her when she was at her desk to make sure she hadn’t passed out from fatigue during her chemotherapy. They gave Theresa and her family a gift card to assist with meals. The chief fellows and clinical navigator assisted with Theresa’s job duties when she was absent. They never uttered a word of complaint.

Dr. Jaiyesimi visited Theresa in her exam room and used the floor as a seat when none was available. He calmed her husband’s fears and

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A 5-star cast

Theresa Marcus gives top billing to this cast of characters in her cancer journey:

- Shelli Bergeron, RN, colorectal nurse navigator
- Laura Buczek, clinical navigator
- Graduate Medical Education team: Carol Brzozowski, Jeffrey M. Devries, M.D., MPH, Sue Patterson and Sharon Wilson
- Hematology-Oncology chief fellows: Adewale Fawole, M.D.; Alexander Glick, M.D.; and Jatin Rana, M.D.
- Hematology-Oncology Fellowship program faculty members: Joseph Anderson, M.D.; Michael Stender, M.D.; Dana Zakalik, M.D.; and Susanna Gaikazian, M.D.
- Greg Kulesza, M.D., gastroenterologist
- Cynthia Vanderkolk, RN, colorectal nurse navigator
- Harry Wasvary, M.D., colorectal surgeon
encouraged David to call his cell anytime. He reminded them that her treatment team travels the cancer path every day and are experts able to answer all their questions.

And others lifted Theresa’s spirits with their encouraging words, jokes and stories, including the Graduate Medical Education team led by Jeffrey M. Devries, M.D., MPH. He said, “Theresa’s courage in the face of adversity speaks to how her Beaumont family pulled together to help her. She is a true role model of professionalism, dedication, commitment and bravery.”

Shortly after her final chemo treatment, Theresa walked into her program’s graduation dinner in June 2014. The entire room of fellows, faculty and staff stopped to applaud and cheer for Theresa because it was a shared and very sweet victory.

Then, at her one-month post-treatment scan, tumors reappeared in the same location. Another surgery. Her case was presented at the tumor boards where a debate ensued on giving Theresa more chemo. Her team decided against it and chose close monitoring instead. Theresa is 18 months cancer-free. Boom!

Theresa credits her cancer team’s relentless support, as well as that of her family, church, friends and co-workers for getting her through this journey. The only way she felt she could ever repay them was to do a great job as program coordinator for a group of individuals she admires and has grown to love.

“I will never forget what they did to help me on my cancer journey,” said Theresa. “I returned to my job with a greater passion, knowing these oncologists and fellows back up their talk with action. With compassion and knowledge, they proved it through the care I received. They walked me through the gloomiest season of my life and renewed my passion for the big picture of why we do what we do every day in the Hematology-Oncology Fellowship program. We change lives. No matter how big or small our roles may be along the journey, we give hope to our patients.”

Theresa, from every one of us in your more than 40,000-member Beaumont Health family, we say bravo to you and your care team. We are inspired and grateful that you were willing to share your story with all of us. We’re sending you the biggest group hug ever!

Editor’s note: Theresa wrote a story about her unique perspective on cancer for a recent issue of Oncology Fellows.
Collin Stempniewski, 11, has seizures every day. He recently had brain surgery and needs physical, occupational and speech therapy. His mother, Kathleen, drives him to and from Beaumont Children’s Rehabilitation Center in the Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club four times a week. It’s 30 minutes away from their home in Macomb, but Kathleen says it’s worth it.

“We love the therapists. They are all wonderful and really great with him,” Kathleen said.

Now, she won’t have to drive quite so far. Beaumont Children’s has opened a Children’s Rehabilitation Services center in Macomb Township, located at 15959 Hall Road, Suite 410. It’s about five minutes away from the Stempniewski’s home.

“A child may speak his first word, take his first step or learn to write his name during a treatment session. Beaumont’s therapists often have lasting impacts on children,” Kris Rutkowski, Beaumont Children’s system director of Speech and Language Pathology, said.

Opening the new center allows easier access to Beaumont services for children like Collin. A team of physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers and speech pathologists all work at the center.

“Many of our current pediatric patients travel from northern Macomb County to our Beaumont pediatric rehabilitation centers in West Bloomfield, Royal Oak and Grosse Pointe,” said Beaumont Children’s System Director of Pediatric Rehabilitation Services Manjula Amarnath.

Children’s rehabilitation services available at the new center include treatment for disorders from medical conditions, accidents, or congenital problems. Programs include services for children with developmental impairments, autism spectrum disorders, language disorders, orthopedic and neurological/neuromuscular conditions, feeding and swallowing problems and sensory integration challenges.

In addition, therapists work with children on stuttering, articulation, cleft lip/palate and craniofacial anomalies.

“I am thrilled because it’s hard to find pediatric therapists. To find something close to home is exciting. It’s nice to see Beaumont coming to our community,” Kathleen said.

To make an appointment at the center, call 586-416-6290 or visit beaumont.edu/childrens-rehab.
Rustling up the right words to express himself isn't something John Wood takes for granted.

That's why the 47-year-old artist and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe dementia patient, came up with the idea of creating specially illustrated “memory cards” to carry with him and share with family, friends and the general public.

The card titled “Lost in Space,” for example, says: “I'm not sure where we are. I'm afraid. Can you please remind me where we are and what time of day it is?”

As intended, using the cards to express himself eases John's anxiety and improves his relationships.

But there's another happy and unexpected result: Making the cards allows him to build precious memories with his 5-year-old son, Julian.

The process begins with John putting on a space costume to portray himself as a “time traveler.”

“Because of my diagnosis, I don’t often know what time or day it is. So the symbolism is perfect,” said John, who began experiencing symptoms of neurocardiogenic syncope in his teens. The condition causes him to suddenly lose consciousness.

After donning the costume, he strikes various poses to convey the messages on the cards. Julian captures it all on camera and John uses the images to create comic book-style sketches on the cards.

Battling related health challenges, including diabetes, concussive and amnestic disorder and frontotemporal degeneration, a form of dementia, has become a part of daily life for John. In 2014, health issues forced him to retire from Detroit Public Schools where he taught art. He now wears a helmet to prevent additional head injuries.

“Maybe Julian will look back and remember us working on this project together,” he said happily, adding that he'd like to find a way to share his cards with other dementia patients.

He credits his physician, Ashley Alexander, D.O., and speech and language therapist Katherine Marks for helping him cultivate the idea for the cards and for fueling the progress he's achieved in using them.

“Besides providing a creative purpose and therapeutic outlet, John's art is also very, very useful,” Dr. Alexander stressed. “Without his cards, John would not be as high-functioning or good-spirited. He's very optimistic about his prognosis. Much more so than other people would be. For him, his art is a game-changer.”

In addition to his art cards, John's ceramic “aphasia bowls,” also include a word component, and will be on display at Beaumont Hospital, Dearborn, now through July 8 as part of Beaumont Health’s Arts for the Spirit program. These 90-day exhibits feature “calming and healing art” by local artists in six public spaces throughout the health system, including the Taylor, Trenton, Dearborn and Wayne hospitals and the Oakwood Physical Therapy and Wellness Center.

Also, the Arts for the Spirit gallery program expanded to Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe with a nine-piece collection focused on Michigan-themed scenery such as the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and Mackinac Island’s Grand Hotel porch.

“Our goal is to create a nurturing environment where our patients and their families can experience the healing nature of art in all its forms,” said Judith McNeely, vice president of Corporate and Community Partnerships for Beaumont Health.

For more information about the Beaumont Health Arts for the Spirit Program, funded by the Oakwood Foundation, contact Susan Majewski, gallery coordinator, 313-586-4941.
Sometimes, you have to dare to disagree.

Salwa Beydoun, a radiology technologist at Beaumont Hospital, Trenton, recently learned the importance of speaking up for patients who cannot speak for themselves. A patient arrived for an X-ray procedure unsteady on his feet and dizzy. The test the patient was scheduled for involved drinking contrast, but when the patient took the first sip, he started coughing.

“I’m not comfortable moving forward with this procedure,” said Salwa. “I think the patient may be aspirating the contrast.”

The procedure continued and the patient was given additional sips of contrast material.

Salwa voiced her concern again that the procedure should be stopped because the patient appeared to be aspirating. The fluoroscope confirmed that a small amount of the liquid was entering his lungs.

Speaking up on behalf of her patient when he couldn’t speak up for himself, won Salwa an Eagle Eye Award for safety.

Dawn Tanner, director, Quality Management, Corporate Quality, said she was right to stop the procedure. “Radiology technologists, just like nurses, work with physicians. They take orders from physicians and are expected to be followed. Salwa was following physician orders, but felt it was harming the patient. Sometimes speaking up and stopping a test or a surgery takes some guts and Salwa stopped the test and prevented further harm to this patient.”

“It was an awesome save,” said Marguerite Nowitzke, manager, Imaging Services and Salwa’s supervisor. “Salwa has always been instrumental in looking out for the patient, so it didn’t really surprise me that she did this.”

Salwa lost her beautiful and amazing father to a situation similar to this. “While I feel incredibly badly about the event, I feel good about the actions I took for the patient’s care and comfort. Some things are more important than finishing the exam.”