

MedStaffNews

AUGUST 2023



Dr. Kevin Huguet and Nancy Safford Westphal.

Colon Cancer Survivor Shares Story to Give Others Hope

By Sherry Robinson

Nancy Safford Westphal may not have been born in St. Petersburg, but she's about as close to a native as you can get. Her family has been a part of the community for many decades.

Nancy is active in the community with many charities including the St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation and the hospital's Auxiliary, St. Petersburg Women's Chamber of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity Pinellas and the SPCA Tampa Bay. She recently was chosen as a princess for the Queen of Hearts Ball for her community service.

She and her husband Steve own several restaurants and also work together to give back to the community through their foundation, the Westphal Family Foundation.

Now, Nancy is giving back in a different way. She's sharing the story of her fight with colon cancer in the hope that it will lead others to get screened. She received her diagnosis and treatment at St. Anthony's.

"It's all about prevention," she said. "This can happen to anyone so it's important to get tested."

Before her diagnosis, Nancy, who is also a Realtor, said she didn't feel sick. *"I felt great," she said. "I'm active with tennis and swimming and golf and all the wonderful things here. Very rarely do I get sick."*

During her annual physical at St. Anthony's in 2021, her primary care physician told her to take an at-home colon cancer screening tool. That came back negative. When her annual physical rolled around again in 2022, her doctor again told her to take the at-home screening test again.

Everything changed this time. The results were positive.

"I thought that must be a mistake because I feel fantastic. There's just no way," Nancy said. "There hasn't been any history of colon cancer in my family, so I didn't really think I was a prospect for that."

Excluding some types of skin cancer, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer diagnosed in men and women in the United States.

The American Cancer Society estimates that colorectal cancer will kill more than 52,500 people in the United States this year. And the organization estimates that nearly 107,000 new cases of colon cancer will be diagnosed, while a little over 46,000 new cases of rectal cancer will be diagnosed this year.

Nancy's doctor told her to quickly get a colonoscopy, a procedure that allows a doctor to examine the large bowel which includes the colon and rectum.

"My first thought following the diagnosis was that hopefully this is caught early enough and (I can) get this taken care of and not need any treatment," she said. "But if I do need treatment, I will be able to be in the best of care right here at St. Anthony's."

Nancy was referred to surgeon Kevin Huguet, MD, who is part of BayCare Physician Partners and has performed this type of surgery countless times. "When I met Nancy back in November 2022, she'd undergone a screening colonoscopy which revealed an early stage of colon cancer," Dr. Huguet said. "Colon cancer is a disease that's very treatable if you catch it at an early stage."

The surgery was scheduled within two weeks. *"Dr. Huguet ...*

Continued on page 4

St. Anthony's Mid-Year Update

By John Haffner



The 2023 year is really flying by. We are already over halfway through the year and a lot is happening at St. Anthony's Hospital and BayCare. I hope that you are taking some time for yourself and your families as the summer has brought slightly lower census to the hospital. Just as we start our meetings at St. Anthony's with mentions of quality, I would like to share some quality today. The most recent edition of St. Pete Life, a local monthly magazine that promotes St. Petersburg, was its "St. Pete's Best" edition. This edition highlights the top three of different businesses in different categories across St. Petersburg. The top three hospitals included St. Anthony's Hospital, which took the number one spot. That speaks volumes about how St. Anthony's is perceived in the community. This is in no small part due to the tremendous, high quality, compassionate care that you as the Medical Staff provide to our community. Thanks for continuing to make our hospital the best in St. Petersburg.

On the construction front, the Emergency Department expansion project continues on schedule, with the new foundation poured and the steel structure going up. You should start to see the outside skin on the walls of the project in late August. There has been some noise vibrating through the southwest side of the hospital the past week. This was related to the demolition of the old Emergency Department drive-up ramp as part of the new structure being built to house 2 new MRIs. The Emergency Department and MRI builds will continue simultaneously and are expected to be completed in the 4th quarter of 2024. There also is a pad for a mobile MRI that should finish inspection by AHCA in late September, with the mobile 1.5T MRI being available towards the end of 2023. This will ensure adequate MRI imaging through the construction phase until the new MRI suite opens. St. Anthony's Hospital is expected to benefit from a BayCare System level infrastructure initiative. All BayCare Hospitals will have new 5G connectivity. This project is being done in phases. St. Anthony's Hospital will get 5G late in the project, which should help us benefit from what we learn from the hospitals that go before us.

BayCare is embarking on developing residency programs across all its hospitals. There are several residency programs established or starting at different hospitals. Winter Haven Hospital has Family Medicine, as does Morton Plant Hospital, Morton Plant North Bay Hospital has Behavioral Health and St. Joseph's Children's Hospital has Pediatrics. St. Anthony's Hospital is being considered for an Internal Medicine Residency that would start in July of 2025.

From the "I'm from the government and I'm here to help" department, there have been a couple recent notifications of which medical staff members should be aware. CMS is proposing to add SEP-1 as a quality measure to its Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program (VBP) for 2026. Please pay close attention to compliance with the sepsis bundle, it is easier to do when using the sepsis power plan. At the state level, SB252, requires health care providers, including hospitals, to develop and post masking policies consistent with the rule by August 1st. That work has already been done at the BayCare System level and should not substantially change the way we approach care in our hospitals.

Finally, I would like to mention the 2023 Physician as Customer Survey will be September 5 - 26. There is a spreadsheet on one of the monitors in the Physician Lounge that lists issues that the Medical Staff Leadership and other members of the medical staff have brought to the attention of the hospital administration. This was part of our action plan from the last survey. Scott Smith, Laurie Duchamp, Jasmine Nicholas and I are in the physician lounge weekly, to hear about your concerns and how we can address them. They can be added to the list until we get the issue resolved. You can see updates on the screen as projects move forward (ED and MRI construction) and issues (Breast Reconstruction Program, hot food in the physician lounge) get addressed. We continue to welcome your input to help make your practice and life at St. Anthony's as good as it can be.

As always, the excellent care that you provide to our patient community is outstanding and the best in St. Petersburg. **Thank you for your time and commitment which allows our patients to know when they come to St. Anthony's Hospital they can expect the best and safest care available.**



Continuing Medical Education

NOTICES:

You can get documents notarized in the
Medical Staff Office, Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

**REMINDER! ITEMS THAT NEED TO BE
COMMUNICATED TO MED STAFF OFFICE ASAP:**

Please remember to communicate any changes with the
Medical Staff office – including:

- Change of group, or office location
- New practice manager
- New supervising or covering physician
- Updated home address
- New cell # or email address
- Notice of Intent or Settlement (bylaws require that you communicate this within 5 business days)
- Resignation – please let us know if you're leaving!

Online CME available at: baycarecme.org
<http://baycarecme.org/Categories/mandatory.html>

The Leapfrog Hand Hygiene Standard

REQUIRES HOSPITALS TO:

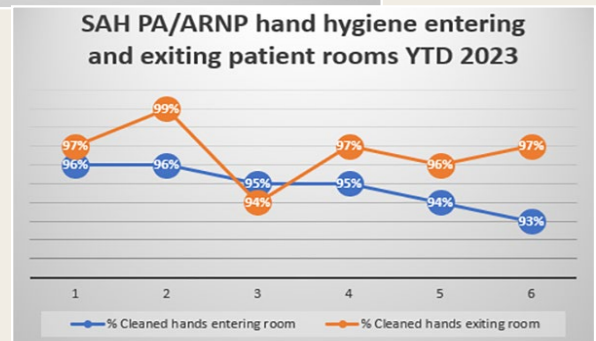
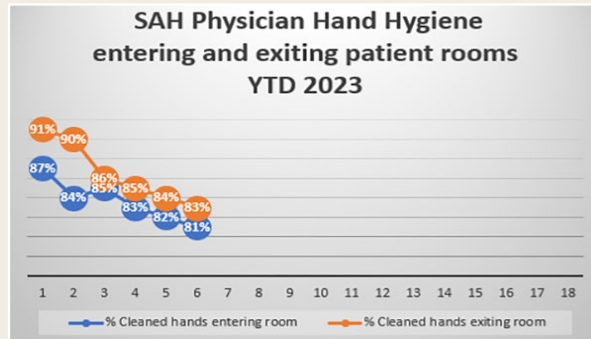
- Provide hand hygiene training to all individuals who touch patients or items that will touch patients
- Assess individuals' hand hygiene technique
- Provide easily accessible alcohol-based hand sanitizer within 5 steps of patient beds
- Collect hand hygiene compliance data on at least 200 hand hygiene opportunities (or 1.7% of all possible hand hygiene opportunities) each month in each patient care unit
- Analyze and share hand hygiene compliance data with staff and leadership
- Invite patients and visitors to remind staff to perform hand hygiene

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is a hospital rating focused exclusively on Hospital Safety. The A, B, C, D or F letter grades are a quick way for consumers to choose the safest hospital to seek care.

The graphs, at right, represent the St. Anthony's Physician and PA/ARNP, Hand Hygiene Compliance with cleaning hands before donning gloves and entering a patient room, and after exiting a patient room. The compliance data for the required number of monthly audits is reported to Leap Frog and is a part of the Leap Frog Grade.

St. Anthony's Hospital had an A grade our last reporting period.

Not only do we encourage patients and visitors to remind staff to perform hand hygiene, we encourage team members to remind each other.



“Patient COMMENTS”

Dr. Thomer took extra time and drew pictures so I would understand.

Dr. Pagano removed what was causing my pain for months.

Dr. Mellace sat down and took the time to explain everything - excellent bedside manner. Warm and friendly!

I got great care and information from *Dr. Sams and Dr. Brian Moss*.

Dr. Hunter, my anesthesiologist, was the best anesthesiologist ever because he was the most thorough ever.

Dr. Stewart and his anesthesia team were wonderful.

Dr. Hirshorn and Dr. Anderson were exceptional.

Dr. Paul was excellent and very kind.

Dr. Murphy and team were exceptional.

Thank you *Dr. Stewart and Dr. Huguet*. You made my experience much better than I could have hoped for.

Dr. Robert Paul was so understanding of my migraine.

He is awesome!

Dr. Tariq, Hana and Steven were awesome!

Kudos to *Dr. Angel's* explanations and bedside manner. Love her!

Dr. Shah excellent along with his staff.

Dr. Barnes was very thorough and explained everything in an easy to understand manner.

Dr. Amy Strickland and Dr. Mindi Giglio are TOP DOCS!

Dr. Pete Peterson and the entire team were amazing. He went out of his way to make me feel comfortable and cared for.

Dr. Eugene Murphy is the best!

Dr. Sanjay Menon is a rock star. I lucked out getting this surgeon.

Dr. John Morrow is an excellent doctor.

Dr. Wendell was fantastic.

Dr. Albaugh was very professional and communicative.

Dr. Al-Andary was excellent.

Love *Dr. Huguet and Dr. Al Andary*.



INFECTION Prevention Corner-

Clean Hands Save Lives

Candida Auris: A Drug Resistant Fungus

Candida auris (C. auris) is a drug-resistant yeast that causes serious invasive infections such as bloodstream infections and even death, particularly in hospitals and nursing homes patients with serious medical problems.

Controlling C. auris is challenging for several reasons:

- (1) it is resistant to multiple classes of antifungals,
- (2) it can be misidentified as other yeasts by commonly available identification methods, and
- (3) it can spread between patients in healthcare settings because of its ability to colonize patients, perhaps indefinitely, and persist for weeks in the healthcare environment.

BayCare isolates and screens all patients admitted from a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH), and patients admitted from any facility deemed a hotspot (facility with 2 or more positive cases or a geographical area where C. auris is highly prevalent.) A list of hotspot facilities can be found on the Infection Prevention & Control Share Point site on the intranet.

Enhanced Contact precautions are required for any patient positive for C. auris or admitted from a hotspot facility. Hotspot facility patients require 2 negative PCR screens collected 7 days apart to discontinue isolation precautions. Current CDC guidelines state that patients colonized or previously infected with Candida auris should not be rescreened; maintain isolation indefinitely.

It is critical to wear appropriate PPE (gown and gloves) when entering the patient's room to prevent the spread of C. auris. PPE should be removed when leaving the patient's room and perform hand hygiene. Disinfect any equipment brought into the room, such as a stethoscope with a hospital approved disinfectant (PDI Super Sani-cloth is effective against C. auris). The most common modes of transmission of C. auris are through the hands of healthcare workers and contaminated equipment.

Currently, no specific intervention is known to reduce or eliminate C. auris colonization, such as the use of chlorhexidine or topical antifungals.

If you have questions related to screening and isolation for C. auris, please contact The Infection Prevention & Control Department, (727) 825-1499.



Colon Cancer Survivor Shares Story to Give Others Hope

Continued from front page

let me know every step what was going to take place," Nancy said. "Recovery would be at St. Anthony's for just a few days. It really was the best care I could imagine. It was even better than I expected. From the surgery to the recovery, everything was just fantastic and I am ever so grateful."

Spreading the Word to Get Screened

As she was going through her diagnosis, surgery and recovery, Nancy posted about her journey on social media. "I (wanted) to make people aware that it's not that difficult to get a colonoscopy and it (colon cancer diagnosis) can happen to anyone," she said. "I would say out of the few thousand people that looked at that, at least 150 people reached out to me to say, 'Thank you for reminding me to go get my colonoscopy.'"

"About a handful of people needed surgery," she said. "They caught it early enough. Some did have to have treatment after surgery but they are okay."

"The importance of your screening studies can't be overstated when you reach the appropriate age," Dr. Huguet said. "Catching the colon or rectal cancer early makes a huge difference in a patient's survival."

Because the cancer was diagnosed early and removed through surgery, Nancy did not need any additional treatment after surgery. "And really and truly, a colonoscopy could not be more important for prevention of colon cancer," she said. "I can't stress enough how important it is. And not to put it off. It means everything to living a healthy life."

For Nancy, the silver lining has been helping to shine a light on getting screened for colon cancer. And being there for her family. "When I was diagnosed, I immediately thought of my family, my son, my daughter, my grandchildren, my husband and of course, my mom who is 91 years old," she said. "And I want to be around. I have so much more I want to give."

COMING SOON

2023 BayCare Physician as Customer Survey September 5 - 26

- Administered through **Press Ganey Assocs.**
 - Sender: noreply@surveys.pressganey.com
- **Active** Medical Staff
- **5-10** minutes to complete
- Confidential survey - responses are **anonymous**
- Survey link is **safe to click**
- Accessible from email invitation **or** via BayCare's Provider Portal link
 - *When accessing the survey link on the Provider Portal, use your **Cerner ID** to log in
- Can be taken on **any** smart device

