



**Kari Szczechowksi, RN, BSN**

Ms. Szczechowksi's commitment to patient safety and quality began as a staff nurse and has continued as a nurse administrator and Masters student at U of M, School of Nursing. Based upon observed practice gaps, she created staff education and training programs and a new hire program to ensure that all nurses possess the competencies essential to safely and effectively meet the needs of seriously ill patients. Her observations also led her to note that there were inconsistencies in the measurement of patients' weights. These inconsistencies could result in harm when weight-based dosing is required for certain medications and fluids. She initiated an evidence-based project which resulted in an increase in daily weight documentation from 9.7% at baseline to 91.6% within one year and is becoming the standard of care.

Ms. Szczechowksi has been a Relationship Oriented Care (ROC) Coordinator since 2010. ROC is a patient-centered philosophy of care that uses tools such as hourly rounding to assess needs and changes in condition as well as "Care and Communication" boards to individualize care. These tools promote quality and safety through goal directed care plans and early recognition of changes in the patient's condition.

As the Chair of the Corporate Patient Education Council, Ms. Szczechowksi led the team in upgrading patient education resources to improve medication safety. The new, evidence-based resources include links within the patients electronic medication administration record to specific information about the prescribed medication such as indications, side effects, contraindications and clinical teaching points. The program also allows the nurse to print out patient information sheets, written at the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level and in 15 different languages, regarding their medications. This resource can reduce medication errors, improve safety and optimize medication effectiveness through appropriate use.

Ms. Szczechowksi also serves as a member of the Corporate Nursing Operations Council, Corporate Shared Leadership Council, Corporate Service Excellence Team, and the Beaumont Health Clinical Transformation Team.