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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

FMC KICKS OFF 90-DAY TRIAL OF 12-BED UNIT

LANCASTER, Ohio (December 10, 2008) – The 12-Bed Unit is an innovative model of nursing care that kicked off yesterday on the fifth floor of Fairfield Medical Center for a 90-day trial. This model is designed to increase nurse time at the bedside and improve teamwork and communication between patients, families, physicians, and other healthcare providers.



For the most part, there are no physical differences in the layout of the unit. Nurses will be reporting to one another at the patients' bedside during shift change and rounding with the physicians who are participating in this 90-day trial. Dr. Scoggin, Dr. Sielski, and Dr. Lloyd, are among those physicians who have volunteered. The whole concept of this unit is that patients and families participate in the overall plan of care during their stay at Fairfield Medical Center, and is composed of a dedicated staff of nurses and patient care techs on the 12-bed team.

Fairfield Medical Center is not the only hospital to look into this new 12-Bed Unit model. It has been used in hospitals across the states with great success. During the 90-day trial, we will be measuring data such as patient, nurse, and physician satisfaction. We will also be measuring national patient safety guidelines such as central line infections, patient falls, urinary tract infections, and pressure ulcers.

Since most nurses work 12-hour shifts, patients may only see them for a day or two at a time. A unique trait about this model is having one Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) who works five, eight-hour shifts, taking care of patients. A CNL is an advanced generalist nurse at a master's degree level who will remain on the nursing unit. This person will be the central contact between the patient, family, and other care providers, including the physician. The CNL at Fairfield Medical Center is Robin Sheets, RN, MSN who will work with patients and their families to develop a care plan that includes goals and concerns. She will be the "Go To" person for other providers to coordinate all aspects of patients' care. However, patients will still have primary nurses to care for them 24 hours a day.

Robin Sheets, commented about her role as a CNL at Fairfield Medical Center, "As a CNL, I don't have traditional patient assignments, but stay up-to-date by performing rounds on a specific patient population and work Monday through Friday during normal business hours to decrease the fragmentation of care that is a result from having so

many different shifts. I interact with hospital personnel, patients, and family members on a day-to-day basis. Fairfield Medical Center is very progressive to institute this model that will provide excellent patient care and I am proud to be a part of it.”

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