

INSIDE HUMBER

Humber is your hospital, these are your stories.

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Welcoming Maria-Cristina Cavicchia to Humber's Senior Leadership Team

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Maria-Cristina Cavicchia as Vice President of Human Resources and Employment Legal Counsel, one of the newest members of our Senior Leadership Team. Maria-Cristina's passion for fostering inclusive, supportive work environments will be valuable as we continue to strengthen our community.

[Read More](#)

Welcoming Dr. Justin Grant to Humber's Senior Leadership Team

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Justin Grant as our new Vice President of Research and Innovation, one of the newest members of our Senior Leadership Team. Dr. Grant's leadership experience in translating research in both clinical and non-clinical environments will be valuable as we work to foster innovation, collaboration, and the rapid translation of healthcare solutions.

[Read More](#)



From Labs to Leadership: Women Powering the Future of Healthcare

At Humber, women are at the forefront of innovation, leadership, and patient care, making up over 77 per cent of the organization's staff. One such leader is Dr. Melika Loria mini, Clinical Practice Leader in the Laboratory Medicine Department. Melika plays a critical role in ensuring the quality and efficiency of laboratory services, which are fundamental to patient care. Read more in this issue of Health System News.

[Read More](#)



Pharmacy Green Sustainability and Inventory Team

At Humer, reducing medication waste and improving inventory management have been key initiatives aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and minimizing the department’s carbon footprint. The CASCADES recognized our Pharmacy Green Sustainability and Inventory Team for their efforts to reduce the climate and environmental harms of medications and adapt to stresses and shocks of climate.

[Read More](#)



Transforming Gynaecological Healthcare with Dr. Lesley Hawkins

In the bustling corridors of Humber’s Maternal Child program, a team of OB/GYNs are revolutionizing gynaecological care through robotic surgery. Dr. Lesley Hawkins, one of four gynaecologic surgeons trained in robotic techniques, shared how the da Vinci Xi has been a game-changer for gynaecological procedures.

[Read More](#)



A Ray of Sunshine for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Department receives visits from Eric and his King Charles Spaniel, Maggie, from Sunshine Therapy Dogs, as well as Linda and her golden retriever/lab cross, Willow, who spend time with the staff and young patients.

[Read More](#)

Thrombosis Awareness Month

Deep vein thrombosis occurs when a thrombosis, or a blood clot, forms in the deep veins anywhere in the body, but more commonly in the legs. Our Thrombosis Clinic specializes in assessing and managing patients with blood clots. In this video, Dr. Vighnesh Bharath, a Haematologist/Oncologist at Humber, explains more.



Watch Here

Maternal and Child Program

With over 4,500 babies born at Humber each year, our Maternal and Child Program is committed to ensuring that every family receives the best possible experience and care. Watch this video to learn more about our Maternal and Child Program and its vision for the future.



Watch Here

International Women’s Day - March 8

International Women’s Day (IWD) recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and girls. The 2025 theme was “**Strength in Every Story,**” to amplify the voices of women, especially those who continue to face barriers to success. Over 75 per cent of our staff, 80 per cent of volunteers and 40 per cent of physicians identify as women at Humber. We are incredibly privileged and proud to have their expertise and experiences leading the hospital’s mandate to provide equitable and exceptional care to our patients.

In honour of IWD, we met with some of the talented women working at Humber, to hear the advice they would give to their younger selves and young girls growing in their personal and professional lives.

Watch Here



Pharmacy Appreciation Month

Pharmacy Appreciation Month is a time to recognize the vital role that pharmacy professionals play in our healthcare system and to thank them for their dedication and expertise. Hospital pharmacy teams are at the heart of patient care, ensuring safe and effective medication use while navigating the increasing complexities of healthcare delivery. As healthcare needs evolve, pharmacy professionals continue to expand their scope of practice to meet growing demands.

Thank you to all pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, administrative staff, and the management team for your hard work and collaboration every day.



Our Pharmacy Services Team, in conjunction with advanced automation, is a critical part of the hospital, working behind the scenes and at the bedside to ensure patients receive safe and effective care. Watch this video to learn more!

[Watch Here](#)



Andy Ma
Manager, Pharmacy Services



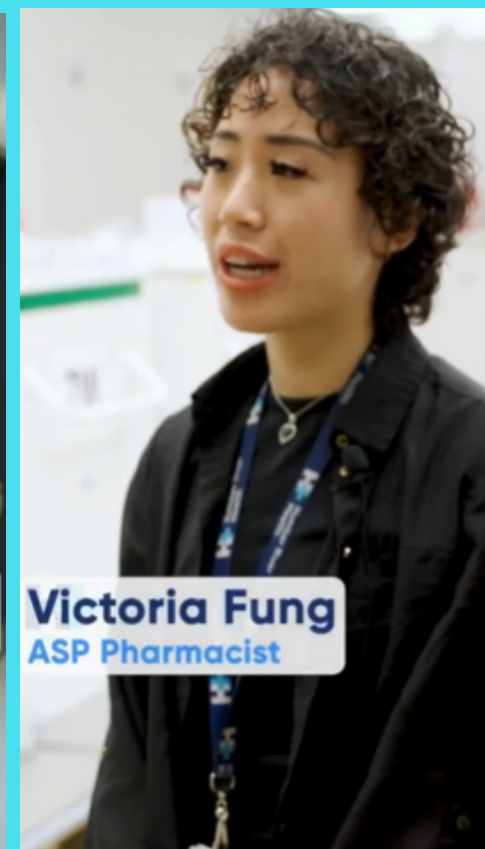
Jeric Andaya
Pharmacy Technician



Harpreet Kaur
Pharmacy Technician



Lovepreet Singh Buttar
Pharmacy Technician



Victoria Fung
ASP Pharmacist



Kadajaah Johnson-Louis
ASP Pharmacist



Apoorva Kelkar
Director, Pharmacy Services

World TB Day - March 24

Thank you to our IPAC Team for educating our staff, physicians, volunteers, patients, and visitors about tuberculosis in honour of World TB Day. Special thanks to the health protection professionals in the TB Program at Toronto Public Health for keeping Torontonians safe.



Social Work Month

Our social workers play a critical role in patient care, providing assessment, intervention and evaluation within the hospital and planning for outside of the hospital. Their work supports not only patients and families, but also our entire healthcare community. Thank you for all that you do!



Nutrition Month

As experts in nutrition, our Registered Dietitians (RDs) provide personalized, evidence-based guidance to help patients meet their dietary needs. Thank you to our RDs for ensuring patients receive the nourishment and dietary support they need to flourish.



Canadian Orthopaedic Care Day

March 26 was Canadian Orthopaedic Care Day – a day dedicated to high quality orthopaedic care and celebrating all those who contribute to delivering it. Through innovation, we are proud to continue to improve patient outcomes and transform the future of orthopaedic care.



Colon Cancer Awareness Month

Colon cancer is both preventable and treatable, especially with early detection, such as by receiving colonoscopy screenings and fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) as advised by your healthcare providers. Watch as Dr. Lazar Klein explains more!

Watch Here



Trainings, Orientation and Mentorship

Our Pressure Injury Management: Risk Assessment, Prevention and Treatment BPG and International Pressure Ulcer Prevalence Survey Champion Workshop was a success - nurses, students, and CPLs strengthened their expertise in pressure injury prevention, assessment, and management!



In March, we proudly participated in the annual International Pressure Ulcer Prevalence Survey, reinforcing our commitment to patient safety and quality care. Through evidence-based practices, we continue to prevent and manage pressure injuries for better patient outcomes!



Endometriosis Awareness Month

Endometriosis occurs when endometrial tissue grows on the outside of a person's uterus rather than naturally along the inside, which can cause debilitating pain, infertility, and impact other areas of an individual's well-being. Watch as OB/GYN Dr. Neetika Sidana explains more!

[Watch Here](#)



Client, Caregiver and Community Advisor - NWT OHT

Would you like an opportunity to shape the future of health and social care services in North West Toronto?

The North West Toronto Ontario Health Team (NWT OHT) is welcoming clients, caregivers, and community members who want to share their voices and make a difference. There are many ways to engage and provide your insights; through surveys, focus groups and participation in working groups. Your role will be crucial in ensuring that the perspectives of clients, caregivers and community members are integrated into the work of the NWT OHT, a partnership of 39 health and social care providers in North West Toronto. Your perspectives are integral to helping shape a more effective healthcare system. Join us in making a meaningful impact on the health and wellbeing of our community.

If this sounds like something you would like to be part of, please complete our onboarding form by clicking on the button below.

[Click Here](#)

World Kidney Day Event - March 13

This World Kidney Day, our Nephrology Program prepared activities for staff, patients, and visitors at our Wilson Hospital and Church Campus to share the importance of kidney health and how to prevent kidney disease. This year’s theme was **“Are Your Kidneys OK? Detect early, protect kidney health,”** raising awareness about the risk factors for kidney disease and emphasizing the importance of early detection.



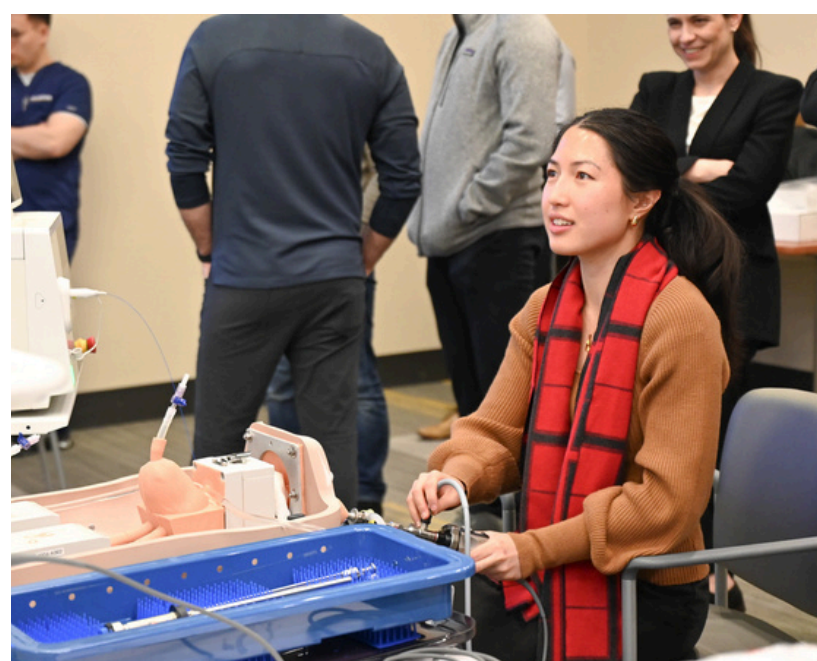
Iftar Dinner - March 18

On March 18, 130 of Humber's staff, physicians, volunteers and community members came together for our third annual Iftar Dinner. As Ramadan is a blessed time of giving in the Muslim faith, we are proud to have raised over \$34,600 (and counting) in support of our Schulich Family Medicine Teaching Unit. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this incredible event!



Piranha Masterclass Event - March 20 and 21

In partnership with AMT Surgical, Wolfe and Olympus, we hosted a surgical training session event on the Piranha Laser Enucleation System – a precisely coordinated, integrated system comprised of a laser resectoscope, Piranha scope, and morcellator to treat any size prostate. This hybrid educational event consisted of interactive learning for participating surgeons, as well as the opportunity to observe Urologists Dr. Luke Fazio and Dr. Olivier Heimrath in the OR - through a live feed, while they completed cases using the Piranha Laser Enucleation System.



First Robot-Assisted Hip Replacement and Unicompartamental Knee Replacements using the Stryker MAKO

This March, Humber performed the first robot-assisted hip replacement and unicompartamental knee replacements using the Stryker MAKO in the GTA with Orthopaedic Surgeons Dr. Justin Chang and Dr. Sebastian Rodriguez-Elizalde. This marks a significant expansion in the fleet of robotic technology, while paving the way for the Canadian surgical landscape - another Humber first! Congratulations to all who played a role in achieving this milestone!



Social Media Highlights

 **Humber River Health**
@HRHealth_

Today marks Zero Discrimination Day, recognizing the fundamental right of every person to live a life of dignity, free from discrimination. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day, and the theme is "To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights."



 **Humber River Health**
@HRHealth_

This year, Ramadan will be observed from March 1 - 30. For those celebrating, Ramadan Mubarak! May this month bring you peace, fulfillment, and spiritual renewal. To all SPVs working throughout this period, we appreciate your dedication to our patients, community and one another.



 **Humber River Health**
@HRHealth_

To all who are celebrating, may your Nowruz be filled with joy, prosperity and the warmth of new beginnings. May this New Year bring you and your loved ones health, happiness and success. Happy Nowruz!



 **Humber River Health**
@HRHealth_

To all who are celebrating, may your Holi be filled with vibrant colours and bring you and your loved ones closer together with peace and happiness. We extend our warmest wishes to everyone celebrating!



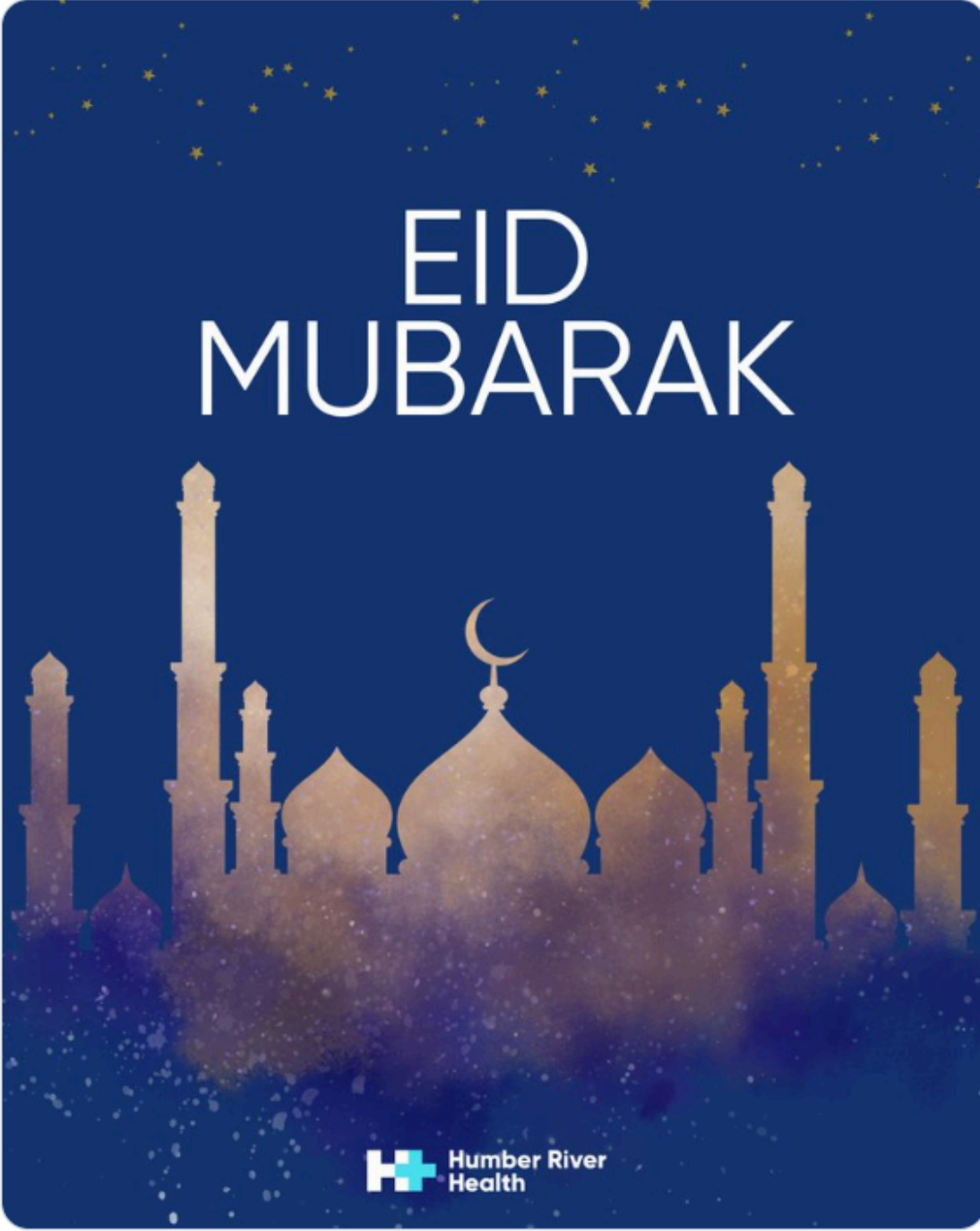
 **Humber River Health**
@HRHealth_

Today, we were thrilled to welcome Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. [@BogochIsaac](#) to our Medicine Rounds to provide a clinical update in infectious diseases. Thank you to all who participated, and special thanks to Dr. Bogoch for sharing his time, expertise, and insight with us.



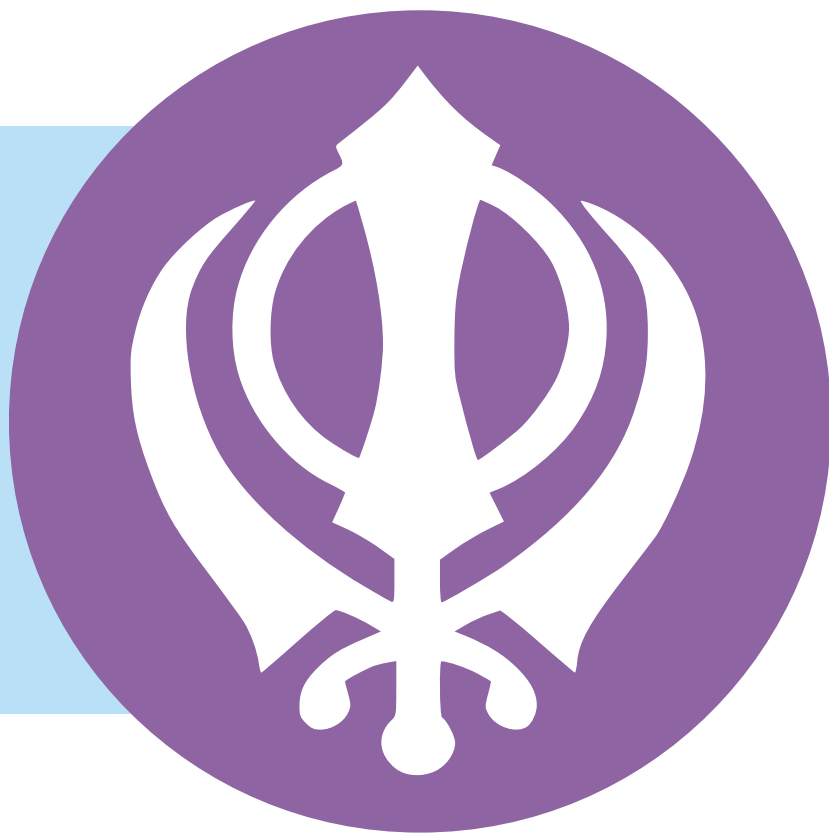
 **Humber River Health**
@HRHealth_

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the fasting of Ramadan and the start of Shawwal, beginning the feast that breaks the fast. We extend our best wishes to the Muslim community this Eid al-Fitr. [#EidMubarak](#) 🌙!



Sikh Heritage Month

In 2013, history was made with April proclaimed as Sikh Heritage Month by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Bill 52). The first of its kind in the world, Sikh Heritage Month brings communities together to celebrate art, heritage and culture.



Arab Heritage Month

Enacted to the House of Commons of Canada as of February 7, 2022 under Bill C-232, Arab Heritage Month, occurring yearly in April, provides Arab Canadians with the space to showcase their rich culture while also recognizing their contributions, struggles, and lived experience throughout Canadian history.



Religious/Spiritual Days

APRIL 5	Ram Navami is a Hindu celebration of commemorating the birth of Lord Rama, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya.
APRIL 8	Commemorates the birth of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Buddha’s birthday is celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists in East Asia and around the world on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, April 8th (Japan), or on the second Sunday of May (Taiwan). The exact date may vary depending on the calendars and calculations used in different traditions and countries.
APRIL 13	Theravada New Year is observed three days after the first full moon appears in April every year. This day marks Buddha’s birth, death, enlightenment, and the start of the rainy season.
APRIL 12-20	Passover celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. The first two nights are commemorated with telling the story of the exodus over a special meal called a Seder.
APRIL 13-19	Holy Week (Western) is a period of continued fasting and religious observance following Lent, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending with Easter.
APRIL 13-20	Great and Holy Week (Orthodox / Eastern) is period of continued fasting and religious observance following the Great Fast (Great Lent), beginning on Lazarus Saturday and ending with the feast of Pascha.
APRIL 14	Vishu is a spring festival observed by Malayali Hindus in Kerala and in adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu, India. Vishu celebrates the vernal equinox when day and night are roughly equal length.
APRIL 14	Vaisakhi/Baisakhi is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day.
APRIL 20	Easter is one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion.



Nominate A Nursing Hero!

H Hospital News™ **20th ANNUAL NATIONAL NURSING HERO AWARDS**

Celebrating Canada's
Nurses and Their
Contributions

Along with having their story published, the winner also will take home:

CASH PRIZES: 1st PRIZE \$1,500 2nd PRIZE \$1000 3rd PRIZE \$500

Have you been inspired, encouraged or empowered by an employee or a colleague?
Have you or your loved one been touched by the care and compassion of an outstanding nurse?
Do you know a nurse who has gone above and beyond the call of duty?

Hospital News will once again salute nursing heroes through our annual National Nursing Week (May 12th to 18th) contest. Nominations can be submitted by patients or patients family members, colleagues or managers.

Please submit by April 6 and make sure that your entry contains the following information:

- Full name of the nurse • Facility where he/she worked at a time
- Your contact information • Your nursing hero story

Please email submissions to editor@hospitalnews.com

H Hospital News™

If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours of emailing your nomination, please follow up at editor@hospitalnews.com or by telephone 905.532.2600 x2234.



March is Pharmacy Appreciation Month

#PAM2025

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 46,000 pharmacists and 10,900 Pharmacy Technicians in Canada. Here are some areas and roles at Humber River Health you may not have known about:

1. ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

Assesses and reviews restricted and targeted antimicrobial, collaborating with prescribers to optimize antibiotic use. Support healthcare staff by providing evidence-based resources such as antibiograms and clinical guidelines. Participate in inter-professional hospital committees and multi-disciplinary rounds to promote antimicrobial use.

2. MEDICATION RECONCILIATION

Pharmacy techs and pharmacists play a critical role in medication reconciliation. A Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) is obtained on admission, with identified discrepancies resolved in collaboration with other healthcare providers. This process is conducted at key transition points, including admission, transfer, and discharge, ensuring medication accuracy and continuity of care.

3. DRUG USE EVALUATION

Our DUE (Drug Use Evaluation) Pharmacist promotes safe, evidence-based, and cost-effective medication therapy. They help manage drug shortages, maintain our hospital formulary and support clinicians by developing and reviewing order sets, parenteral manuals and clinical guideline.

4. CENTRAL INTRAVENOUS ADMIXTURE PROGRAM (CIVA)

The pharmacy department's Central Intravenous Admixture Program (CIVA) prepares most IV medications in a "Ready to Use" format, enhancing patient safety and efficiency. Compounded preparations include electrolytes, antibiotics, total parenteral nutrition (TPN), infusers, narcotics, and both hazardous and non-hazardous IV formulations. All compounded products adhere to NAPRA compounding regulations, ensuring compliance with the highest safety and quality standards.

5. PHARMACY INFORMATICS

Clinical Informatics Pharmacists bridge the gap between clinical stakeholders and technology specialists, improving the safety and quality of medication management. By integrating expertise in clinical practice, pharmacy automation, and Meditech, they support the development and maintenance of a closed-loop medication system.

6. PHARMACY AUTOMATION

Pharmacy optimizes medication dispensing by improving efficiency and reducing errors through the use of robotics and technology. Automated systems facilitate accurate packaging and labeling of medications, enhancing patient safety and workflow efficiency.

7. DRUG NAVIGATION (ONCOLOGY)

The Drug Navigator Pharmacy Technician assists oncology patients in accessing financial support for their medications. By connecting patients with drug funding resources, they help alleviate financial burdens, enabling them to focus on their treatment and overall well-being.

