Objective of This Lecture

• Review the functions of the clinical departments in a hospital
  – Direct patient care
  – Ancillary functions

Nursing Units

• Hospitals are not typically organized by physician specialty
• Instead, patient areas are generally organized according to the kind of nursing care provided
• Nurses are primarily responsible for providing physical patient care and treatment, according to the orders of the patient’s physician
Typical Nursing Units

- Intensive care unit (ICU)
  - Specialized equipment and highly trained staff to treat life-threatening illness or injury
  - Mechanical assistance with breathing, nutrition, etc.
- Cardiac floor/telemetry unit
  - Continuous electronic monitoring of cardiac function
  - Care for patients with serious heart conditions

Typical Nursing Units (cont’d)

- Labor and delivery
  - Devoted to assisting mothers with childbirth
  - Vaginal and surgical delivery
  - Postpartum recovery
- Nursery and neonatal ICU
  - Specialized nursing care for newborn infants
  - Premature babies
  - Other neonatal distress

Surgery Suite

- Inpatient and outpatient (same-day) procedures
- Houses operating rooms, scrub area, recovery room, a sterile inner core, and central sterile supply
- Specialized surgery suites, for example:
  - Neurosurgery
  - Thoracic surgery (inside the chest)
  - Orthopedic surgery
Emergency Medicine

- Receives “walk-in” hospital patients (including patients brought by ambulance or other emergency response)
- Evaluates illness or injury and determines course of action
- Treats and discharges non-emergency cases to follow-up care
- Treats and stabilizes emergency cases and admits to hospital when needed

Outpatient Services

- Treats patients who do not require hospital admission
- Provides follow-up care after hospital discharge
- May be integrated with the hospital, or exist as a freestanding clinic

Ancillary Services

- Services that provide supportive care to the patient care units
  – Diagnostic
  – Therapeutic
  – Custodial
Laboratory and Pathology

- Staffed by med-techs and pathologists
- Test body fluids and tissues
  - Hematology and coagulation
  - Biochemistry and therapeutic drug monitoring
  - Immunology
  - Microbiology, parasitology, and virology
  - Transfusion services

Radiology and Imaging

- Diagnosis and treatment
- Staffed by technologists and radiologists
- Examples:
  - X-ray
  - Ultrasound
  - Nuclear medicine
  - Angiography
  - Interventional radiology
  - Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
  - Computed tomography (CT)
  - Positron-emission tomography (PET)

Pharmacy

- Controls drugs used in the hospital
  - Storage
  - Preparation
  - Dispensing
  - Safe use
  - Compatibility
  - Education
  - Compliance
Respiratory Therapy

- Support to improve and maintain lung function in patients with chronic respiratory ailments
  - Blood gas analysis
  - Supplemental oxygen
  - Inhaled medications
  - Breathing and relaxation exercises
  - Positive-airway pressure therapy
- Personalized programs to manage condition after discharge

Rehabilitation Services

- Provide physical and emotional support to manage or overcome disability
- Physical therapy
  - Treatments to prevent or limit permanent physical disability
  - Focus is on large muscle groups and gross-motor movement
  - Treatments may include application of heat, cold, water, electricity, massage, and exercise
- Occupational therapy
  - Assists in restoring or maintaining abilities of independent daily living
  - Activities develop hand-eye coordination, balance, fine-motor coordination, and social interaction

Rehabilitation Services (cont’d)

- Speech, language, and hearing services
  - Speech disorders
  - Problems with understanding language or expressing thoughts
  - Swallowing and feeding disorders
  - Hearing disorders
- Sports medicine
  - Specializes in treating sports-related and orthopedic injuries
  - Works to increase strength and flexibility or correct weakness
  - Facilitates a quick and safe return to athletic activities
### Wound Care

- Assistance with healing of chronic, non-healing wounds
- Debridement, dressings, and antibiotic treatment
- Identification and treatment of underlying conditions that interfere with healing
- Patient and family education about proper wound care
- Nutritional guidance for optimal healing
- Advanced healing treatments
  - Negative-pressure (vacuum) therapy
  - Hyperbaric oxygen therapy

### Dietary Services

- Nutrition assessments
- Nutrition education for modified diets
- Diet orders
- Tube feeding and intravenous nutrition
- Specialized nutrition classes (for example, for congestive heart failure and pulmonary rehabilitation)
- Outpatient nutritional counseling

### Medical Psychology

- Monitors and supports patients' mental well-being
- Provides therapy to assist emotional and psychological recovery
  - Talk or group therapy
  - Behavior modification
  - Muscle relaxation
  - Medications
  - Recreational therapy
Social Services

- Coordinates discharge planning to ensure patient has resources for needed follow-up care
- Provides referrals for housing, medical, mental, and financial assistance
- Special services
  - Child welfare
  - Geriatrics
  - Family services

Custodial Services

- Care for patients who need additional support after leaving the hospital
  - Rehabilitation centers
  - Assisted living
  - Nursing homes/long-term care facilities

Summary

- A hospital’s clinical departments include those involved in direct patient contact, including numerous support/ancillary services
- These departments work together to ensure that patients have the support they need to heal and recover