Augusta University Medical Center uses biosensors to predict changes in med-surge patients

ORLANDO, Fla.—A Georgia hospital aims to help nurses care for med-surge patients through a wireless biosensor paired with analytics software that can predict when a patient's condition is deteriorating.

Augusta University Medical Center (AUMC) is the first hospital in the country to use the biosensor in the clinical environment. The hospital decided to test the device on its medical-surgical population to help nurses who sometimes care for up to six med-surge patients at a time, all with varying health concerns, said Kevin Dellsperger, M.D., vice president and chief medical officer at AUMC in an interview with FierceHealthcare.

For a nurse taking care of six patients, it may be several hours between patient assessments. During that time, a patient could be exhibiting subtle signs of deterioration.

"Other than a patient self-actuating a call line or a family member calling for help, there is no way that nurse could know what is going on," Dellsperger said.

The biosensor device, manufactured by Netherlands-based tech company Philips, pairs with the IntelliVue Guardian Solution, software that integrates clinical decision support analytics with patient information to provide early warning signs for intervention. Guardian is used in hospitals throughout the U.S., including AUMC, but the system just received 510k clearance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use with the wearable biosensor.

RELATED: HIMSS 2017: Philips' Roy Smythe on what motivates physicians to adopt new technologies

AUMC hopes to make the biggest impact on patient care by using the two technologies to identify patients that are experiencing subtle but potentially problematic changes. The problem, Dellsperger said, is that the range for normal vital signs is very broad: A normal heart rate is anywhere from 60-100 beats per minute. A patient that jumps from 60 to 90 beats per minute is still within a normal range but is likely signaling distress.

"You can still be in the normal range and be getting very sick," Dellsperger said. "When you look backward at an event you sometimes see that as much as 12 hours earlier, and certainly in many cases, four to six hours earlier. Those are really vital times to see some of those changes."

Traditionally, those signals are missed in units like med-surge where patients are not connected to hardwired sensors. The biosensor—which tracks respiratory rate, blood pressure, heart rate and temperature—feeds that data into the analytics software and notifies clinicians when a patient’s vital signs could signal a larger problem.

RELATED: HIMSS 2017: FDA debunks 4 medical device cybersecurity myths

The biosensors have only been used for two-three months at AUMC, so Dellsperger said the hospital is still trying to determine exactly how it wants to move forward with the device and what operational barriers still exist. Feedback from clinicians has been positive, but reliance on new technology is both a blessing and a curse, he said. Although it can assist clinical care, he worries that clinicians will become too reliant on new devices.

"I keep warning them, 'Don’t forget your critical thinking skills,' because technology isn’t always going to be right," he said.
Nursing Leaders at AU Health are sincerely interested in understanding more about your role as a clinician along with listening and learning from your new ideas. Nursing Leaders want to ensure that you have the tools you need to succeed in the awesome responsibility of taking care of our patients. We are extremely grateful for your hard work, compassion, and leadership. AU Health Nursing Leaders want to assist in promoting good working healthy environments. Therefore, we are implementing a new initiative titled “Shadowing for Success” which will entail Nursing Leaders dressing out in scrub suits, coming to your units and divisions to understand how we can better support you on the front line of the patient’s care experience. We want to hear your input on areas such as: What do you like about working here? What frustrates you about working here? What obstacles are in the way of performing your job to the best of your ability? How can Nursing Leaders enhance your level of satisfaction and engagement?

Together, as we learn and grow together, we can achieve excellent patient outcomes for every patient, every encounter, every time. Please be looking for Nursing Leaders to spend time shadowing you in your work areas beginning Nurses Week – May 2017.

Uniform Branding Initiative

Our top priority at AU Health is to provide the highest level of Patient- and Family-Centered Care, satisfaction, quality and safety to our patients. A health system uniform branding initiative has been announced that will allow us to enhance the patient experience, focus on employee engagement, and continue celebrating our brand rollouts for Augusta University and AU Health. By standardizing uniforms – with our new name and logo mark – for those who deliver patient care and services, we can foster a greater unity of spirit among employees, while creating a seamless health care experience for our patients.

Throughout all stages of this initiative, it is vital that we have your involvement and support. We are currently in the exploratory phase and are working diligently to build a team that is representative of the many areas and functions of our health system. As we proceed, we will create opportunities to ensure your participation in the uniform selection process. Please stay tuned for more information about these opportunities and this exciting project.
You Are Invited
to
Brunch With Brower

Are you interested in getting to know your Chief Nursing Officer? If so, now is your opportunity! We are pleased to introduce “Brunch with Brower”! Mrs. Brower is very excited to get to know each of you and wants to hear your voice! This is a great opportunity to casually discuss current hot topics, ask questions and share ideas with your Chief Nursing Officer, all while enjoying an informal meal! Brunch with Brower will be monthly starting in April! We will choose 14 invitees each month to attend. It will be from 8:00am - 9:00am.

If you are interested, please send a request to nursetonurse@augusta.edu
Nursing Councils

Nursing Education Council
This month the education committee discussed the new uniform branding initiative for the entire hospitals and dispersed it to each member and manager to post on their respective units. A Shared Governance Task Work Force Team is being assembled with each area representative involved to go through the Insulin process of each area. In addition, the education committee discussed new single point lessons available to staff covering expanded contact precautions. Also, epidemiology will be working with dietary staff to educate staff on how to safely deliver meals to patients on droplet precautions.

Nursing Informatics Council
This month, our committee had Cheryl Spindler announce that the 7/24 Downtime project is underway. The plan is to have the downtime app loaded on the computer containing order com on each unit. More info and education to come. Denead Buoy discussed that there is a falls committee looking at the Cerner standard in order to flow all falls prevention interventions as well as pre and post fall plans into Powerchart. Karen Wilson (chair) announced that AU medical center plans to have standardized uniforms within ten months to one year from now. The plan is for the uniforms to have the AU logo and the hospital will potentially provide the first 2 sets of scrubs. There will be a task force developed to look at each department and decide on colors for each. Be looking on your unit for a sheet to fill out with the color that you want. Karen also announced that there is new policies on policy tech so please be sure to stay up to date. There is new information about how to handle certain medications within policy tech as well. Susan Gurley presented the standardized nursing views for the navigation bars within powerchart. Right now many sections within powerchart are named different things. The goal is to standardize the navigation bar names throughout all the areas of nursing. Please stay tuned for more information on all of these topics to come!

Clinical Ladder
Accepting intents from March 1st to March 31st for the May Clinical Ladder Portfolio Submission.

Exemplary Professional Practice Council
The Professional Practice Committee is joining forces with the Performance Improvement Council under the new Shared Governance restructuring and will be called the Exemplary Professional Practice Council. We have been discussing ideas to improve communication in each department and hospital wide. We are looking for suggestions or models to implement an effective communication process. Email your unit representative with ideas!!! Our next meeting will be February 28th at 10-12.

Special Projects February Updates
Nurses week is coming up and we will be kicking it off with the Nursing Gala on May 6, 2017 at West Lake Country Club from 7pm-1130 pm. 7 Once will be the band performing and there will be food and a cash bar. Details about tickets should be available by the next Newsletter. Make sure your unit is nominating exceptional nurses for their care and nurses that go above and beyond! We will honor selected nurses with specialty awards that night. The Lula Roe fundraiser was a success, thanks to everyone that came by! Our next fundraiser will be a cake auction on April 14, 2017.

Evidence-Based February Updates
EBP Council had a productive meeting. We discussed various change models and although different models were discussed the common thread appears to be the focus on frequent communication, identifying and inspiring opinion leaders, frequent interaction with those impacted, involvement with those involved early and often, visibility and staying open to concerns and suggestions. We have completed our re- review of role identifiers for badges and have not found any new information at this time. The EBP Council has had seven new members so this past session an article was provided on how to evaluate evidence. After the meeting each member was provided with a series of articles that can be found at the Greenblatt Library called Evidence Based Practice - Step by Step that helps nurses understand how to ask critical questions, do a literature search and then evaluate the evidence, and set up a research project. Now we just need a few good RFCs to put this knowledge to good use.
The clock is ticking and every minute counts when it comes to the control of massive bleeding. Taking simple steps and knowing how to decrease flow can often mean the difference between life and death.

In February, some members of the AU Trauma Team joined forces with other trauma providers from across Georgia to educate folks at the State Capitol on how to “Stop the Bleed.” The event kicked off a statewide initiative to train Georgians in basic techniques that can save someone’s life. Consider it similar to the Heimlich maneuver, where someone standing next to you, who knows what to do, has the power to make the difference between life and death.

The Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons in conjunction with the Georgia Trauma Foundation organized the event and requested one million dollars to install bleeding control kits in each of the 2,000 public schools across Georgia. If funds are allocated, AU’s Trauma Team will be out in the community educating and installing these lifesaving kits throughout our community.

Trauma Awareness Day - 2017
The Education Corner

- Charge Nurse, The Novice Level 1: 8:00am-12:30pm — April 13, 2017
- Charge Nurse, The Expert: 8:00am-12:30pm — June 8, 2017
- Preceptor Class: 8:00am-12:30pm
  - March 28, 2017
  - May 23, 2017
  - April 7, 2017
  - June 22, 2017

Please sign up for the above classes online @ https://www.trainingcentertechologies.com/GeorgiaHealth/CourseEnrollment.aspx

For any questions, please feel free to call Mary Kennedy, 706-446-5502 or email makennedy@augusta.edu

Welcome Vizient/AACN Spring 2017 Cohort!
Charlice Anthony
Kacy Bennett
Andrew Cartier
Chelsea Casella
Catherine Cave
Tamika Cook-Harley
Katie Corcoran
Jorden Davis
Lara Dockery
Whitney DuCharme
Min Gong
Kim Hekl
Carolina Holley
Sara Hopkins
Samantha Jones
Jackie Legette
Kaylee LaChance
Jeffrey Liu
Sydney Llorance
Jordan Martin
Paul Bell
Makenzie McDaniel
April Moore
Carlye Pankey
Kelley Peel
Jessica Powell
Victoria Roldan
Jordan Seremak
Jinxi Sheng
Michael Somma
Shelby Stephens
Katie Streeter
Quannaires Streeter
Allie Thacker
Craig Taylor Burton
Alexis Traylor
Angela Turner
Dylan Williams
Wayne Yost
Cory Zeller

Reminder: We now have 2 Cohorts for the Vizient/AACN Program:
Fall 2016 Cohort: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month.
Spring 2017 Cohort: Meets 2nd Tuesday of every month

SAVE THE DATE
Nursing Continuing Education Seminars

Certified Pediatric Nurse Exam Review
June 1-2, 2017
Presented by: Julie L. Bacon, MSN, HCSM, RNC-UPLN, NE-BC, CPN, OPEN, C-AFT
12.5 Contact Hours (for both days)

SEMERN REGISTRATION AND BROCHURE COMING SOON
MED-ED, Inc. is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC).
MED-ED, Inc. is an approved provider by the following State Boards of Nursing:
Florida FL NO 1288/Georgia GA NO CT1040/California CA NO 4177.
Let’s Celebrate our Nurses!

Newly Certified Nurses - Inpatient Obstetric Nursing

Taylor Breaux    Terrilyn Daniels
Whitney Greene   Brooke King
            Katie Roon

iROUND Recognition

Noha Bakr (4 CHOG)
Brandi Disch (5 CHOG)
Jessica Cantrell (Float Pool)
Sarah Quick (5 CHOG)

Rosalyn Bussey (5W)
Toni Hall (3W)
Venita Davis (8S)
Welcome New Team Members!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Dye</td>
<td>SICU</td>
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<td>Tyler Federman</td>
<td>Float Pool</td>
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<td>Reshanda Grant</td>
<td>7 West Obstetrics</td>
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<td>Abigail Hollar</td>
<td>8 South Medicine</td>
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<td>Victoria Hulsebus</td>
<td>Radiology Nursing</td>
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<td>Amanda Junkins</td>
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<td>Coleen Kelly</td>
<td>Care Facilitation</td>
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<td>Lorin Lawson</td>
<td>4 South Surgery</td>
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<td>Javier Ramirez Smith</td>
<td>Operating Room</td>
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<td>Christopher Rud</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
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<td>Martha Stipsits</td>
<td>Transplant Admin</td>
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<td>Alexis Washington</td>
<td>6S Intermed Cardiology</td>
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<td>Angela Williams</td>
<td>Float Pool</td>
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<td>Cory Zeller</td>
<td>3 South Adult Psych</td>
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<td>Gertrude Avery Dunn</td>
<td>Care Coordination</td>
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<td>Cynthia Bates</td>
<td>6S Intermediate Med</td>
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<td>Bryan Cooper</td>
<td>7 South</td>
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<td>Tara Cordle</td>
<td>Float Pool</td>
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<td>Jakell Farmer</td>
<td>6S Intermediate Med</td>
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<td>Jennifer Gates</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
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<td>Kristen Irby</td>
<td>CHOG OR</td>
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<td>Kathryn Kennedy</td>
<td>3 West Neurology</td>
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<td>Sheila Limbaugh</td>
<td>7P Perinatal Oper</td>
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<td>Emma Macuch</td>
<td>7 South</td>
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<td>Nicole Maniccia</td>
<td>MICU</td>
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<td>Cheryl Morales</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
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<td>Kimberly Natson</td>
<td>Psych ED Suite</td>
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<td>Wendy Nelms</td>
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<td>Devin O’Connor</td>
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<td>Brandy Sachau</td>
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<td>Brenda Tillman</td>
<td>Perianesthesia</td>
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<td>Kayla Wadford</td>
<td>3 South Adult Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katrina Wright</td>
<td>4 C Pediatric Medicine</td>
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Frankly Florence

Florence Nightingale was a pioneer in the field of nursing. Her ideas about advocacy, leadership, and nursing practice in the 19th century are still relevant today. Nightingale’s ideas of advocacy for patients and the profession of nursing have stood the test of time and have been adopted in the ever-changing field of healthcare. Nightingale proved that advocacy equals power to caring nurses. Use this power to help better your nursing practice. From bedside nurses to nursing management, we must all be advocates for our profession to make changes that will better our practice as a whole. Better nursing practice will yield better patient outcomes.

This section of our newsletter will be entitled Frankly Florence. We want to hear from you. What are your questions, concerns, fears, or ideas about nursing practice at AU Health? What can we do to improve our nursing practice? We will be answering your questions monthly in our newsletter. Your feedback is crucial to molding our nursing practice just as Florence Nightingale did in the 19th century. Please email your questions to NURSETONURSE@augusta.edu.