

December 2019

**BAYVIEW**  
HOSPITAL

# NEWSLETTER

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## IN THE NEWS...



## AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

Bayview Hospital is making the quality healthcare we offer, accessible to everyone. We understand the economic climate is challenging and have put a variety of financing options in place to make meeting the healthcare needs of our patients affordable.

Individuals who are having an elective surgery or require maternity services and have time to plan ahead can come to Bayview to see what their best options are. For patients who have health insurance, we will contact the insurance provider to ensure that they are clear about what their obligations will be.

If you don't have health insurance our admissions officer Andrea Graham will sit with you and go through the payment plans we offer so you can select one that works best for you.

An example of one such plan is to pay 30% of the estimated cost of the procedure and then pay off the balance monthly for 10 months. A payment plan for those who have insurance and are paying the deductible can also be arranged. Payments can either be invoiced monthly or be done electronically via credit card as well.

We are sensitive to the fact that health issues will arise that require urgent admission and therefore planning ahead is not possible. In such a case, while a deposit is required, a payment plan can be put in place after. We have also changed our policy of requiring 100% of the deposit and now will accept 50% of the estimated cost. Those costs cover the operating theatre, room and board, medical supplies and medication.

At Bayview we are committed to making your healthcare needs affordable while providing excellent care, with state of the art equipment and a team of highly trained professionals.



# Administrator's Message

Welcome to our last Newsletter for the year 2019!

The end of a year is a good time to look back, reflecting on achievements, and to look forward, to see what we still need to accomplish.

In 2019 we celebrated with the "Pearl" 30th Anniversary of Bayview Hospital and an Award Ceremony for our long standing employees, this was indeed a remarkable and memorable event.

Midyear Bayview Hospital introduced 24 hour physician support, to our Nursing Staff and Physicians that hold Practising Privileges with us, with a Resident Medical Officer and supporting Senior House Officers. These Doctors have proven to be asset in assisting with upholding the standard and delivery of care to all of our patients.

We also welcomed the following Specialist Physicians to Practise at Bayview Hospital:

**Dr. Felix Gittens – Obstetrician and Gynaecologist**

**Dr. Adrian Peters – General Surgeon**

**Dr. Dale Springer – General Surgeon**

**Dr. Lynden Brooks – Internal Medicine**

**Dr. Brian Charles – Emergency Medicine**

**Dr. Stefan Sobers – Anaesthetist**

**Dr. Andre Lovell – General Internal Medicine**



Jules Reid - Hospital Administrator

**Teon Waithe**, the successful Student Nurse to accept the sponsorship from Bayview Hospital, has now graduated to Registered Nurse, we applaud her diligence and determination and welcome her to the team as part of our Bayview Family.

We also congratulate the Bayview YMPC accomplishments; we look forward to continuing the sponsorship into 2020 and wish them continued success in cricket.

Looking forward into 2020 we shall embark on the construction of a much needed Urgent Care Centre with full Diagnostic and Radiology support. This is an extremely exciting venture for us and I look forward to keeping you updated on the progress.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I did, and I welcome any feedback.

Wishing you and your families all the very best for the Season and the year 2020!

Blessings

Jules Reid

Hospital Administrator

# RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER DR. MELLISSA BRANFORD HAS BAYVIEW COVERED



In July we introduced 24-hour physician support to the hospital and welcomed Dr. Mellissa Branford to Bayview as our first Resident Medical Officer. This means that there is a doctor in house at all times, available to give continuous support to the physicians who have practicing privileges at Bayview and to the nursing staff.

The managing consultants usually do not remain on site 24hrs a day, if there is an issue or something comes up, the nurses, who are with the patients all the time, will usually discuss the issue with the consultant and the consultant can liaise with the physician on site to assist.

For Dr. Branford the position is a good fit. "The nurses at Bayview are fantastic and I am so excited to have the opportunity to assist in both medicine and surgery when invited to do so by the consultants."

In her position as a Resident Medical Officer, Dr. Branford is at Bayview Hospital every day from 7:30 in the morning and is then relieved by a Senior House Officer (SHO)/doctor in the evening. This also obtains on the weekends to provide continuous support to the physicians that practice at Bayview. "Whenever there is a patient admitted to the ICU there is an SHO present who is dedicated to that patient."

Dealing with emergencies or any issue that develops with a patient on the ward, reviewing a patient (particularly as it relates to unstable patients), assisting with IV access and various blood taking work and any other procedures that the consultant may require assistance with, are among the numerous responsibilities that Dr. Branford is charged with. Having an in-house physician on the floor at all times ensures that the consultants plan remains in motion.

"I facilitate a lot of things that previously the consulting doctor would have to find his or her way back to the hospital to do such as rectifying or adding things to a treatment. Once the consulting doctor gives a direct order, since I am the physician here, I can do that and sign off. I really help everyone. I am happy to do that because it allows things to go more smoothly, to streamline the treatment and care of patients here. The nurses feel more comfortable because if something happens, they know that I am here, they can come and get me. I can quickly evaluate a patient see what the problem is, I will then speak to the consultant, inform them of what is happening, and they will direct me. I am the eyes and ears on the ground. Usually the consultant will come as well but if there is something that happens in a short space of time that needs to be dealt with right away then I am here to help with that."

Dr. Branford is enjoying her role as RMO because it allows her to have the best of both worlds as a physician by utilizing her skills. She also assists with the continuous training programme that Bayview offers to the nurses. For example, codes are run weekly as a way to keep skills sharpened and refreshed. She also assists in ensuring that all the protocols Bayview has in place to meet international standards are properly executed.

There is no job too big or small for Dr. Branford. It's not unusual to see her filling a patient's glass with water or giving one a foot rub, she considers her role as one that serves as both a bridge to help things run smoother and to also engage with the patients to ensure that they are as comfortable as possible.

"If I were a patient at Bayview, I would feel very comfortable here. Here your medical and emotional requirements are fulfilled with due care and attention.

Being ill is not easy and there is a lot of support staff here. Everyone from reception, to accounting, to physicians and nurses, everyone is sensitive to the fact that a patient is going through something, no matter how minor or major your procedure or illness is."



# Breast Cancer Awareness



Breast Cancer Walk 2019

Dr. Ranita Jhagroo, Dr. Tamara Nancoo, Jules Reid, Karen Meakins amongst friends of BVH.



Breast Cancer Awareness Day

Jules Reid, June Beckles, Eudine Selman, Claire Taylor, Amery Critchlow - Part of the Admin Team at BVH - wearing pink in support

## Bayview Christmas Helpers



Sheila Alleyne, John Holder & Towain King

December 2019



# TEON TAKES THE TASSEL

When Teon Waithe walked across the stage on graduation day at the Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium, to accept her Bachelor's degree, in nursing from the Barbados Community College, she was completely overjoyed, "I felt ecstatic and accomplished," the new nurse, who received upper second class honors, confessed. For Teon, who is the first recipient of Bayview Hospital's nursing scholarship that moment which represented the culmination of perseverance and hard work, was a dream come true.

Since the age of 16, Teon, knew nursing was her calling. "I am the oldest of 5 and had the responsibility of helping with my siblings, because my mum traveled a lot for work. Sometimes I would have to miss school, if one of my brothers or sisters was ill, staying at home to take care of them. This definitely influenced my decision to become a nurse. I can not imagine doing anything else."

Determination is very much a part of Teon's character. The 33-year-old Guyanese native immigrated to Barbados at the age of 11 and attended a private high school that unfortunately did not focus on CXC's, which meant that upon leaving there she had to work towards those qualifications privately over the course of a several years.

Teon would eventually earn 6 CXC's.

During that time, she did a one-year course in medical transcription and then went to BCC, where she completed a course to become a nursing assistant. Following this Teon went on to work at the Heart and Stroke Foundation as a cardiac rehab nursing assistant in 2013.

Never losing site of her goal, and with just enough money for the first year, Teon took a leap of faith, she left her job in 2015 and returned to BCC as a full-time nursing student. "I didn't know how I was going to get through, but I had faith that God would provide and that the money would come."

The journey was not an easy one. During the second year of her studies, Teon's father passed away and financing the second year was also stressful, but she managed to make it through. In her third year Teon would experience another tragedy with the death of her brother. Despite everything, Teon persevered. It was around this difficult time that she first heard

about the scholarship being offered by Bayview Hospital for final year nursing students. Initially, Teon did not apply because she thought it was only for Barbadian applicants. Shortly before the deadline she decided to apply anyway. Teon is extremely glad she did, because after applying she learned that applicants just needed to be a resident of Barbados. She was overjoyed when after being shortlisted, she was awarded the scholarship. "The scholarship came at the right time I really needed the financial assistance."

Teon passed her registration exam, which she took in early October, with flying colors and is now a fully qualified registered nurse. "I wanted to scream and jump for joy, all the hard work has paid off." She attributes her success to commitment, determination, family support and faith.

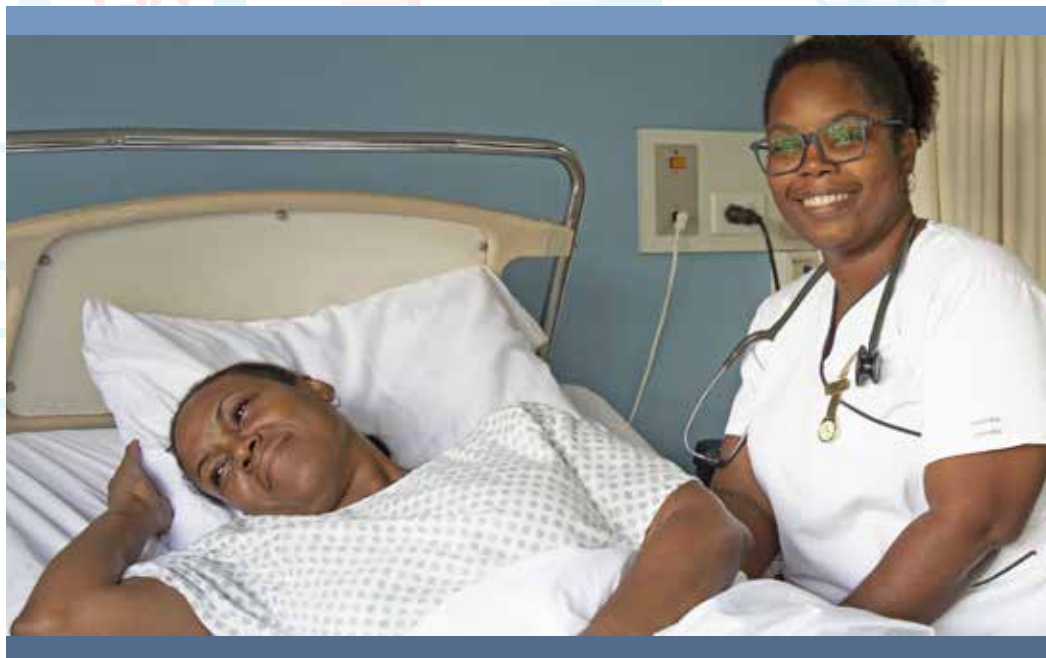
"I couldn't have done it without those things, this is a great accomplishment and I'm really proud of myself. The journey took a while, but I am really happy."

As part of the scholarship Teon will work at Bayview for 6 months. She began her eight weeks of training at Bayview in October. "The 8 weeks has been amazing. The best feeling was when a patient came back to say thank you, it was a great feeling to know I am doing something good."

For Teon the entire experience with Bayview has been a positive one. "I am blessed and feel so good that I don't have to go job hunting. The staff is friendly, it feels like a family, I really love the work environment."

Teon has some advice for anyone thinking about becoming a nurse.

"It takes a special type of person to be a nurse you have to be caring. Don't do it for the wrong reason make sure it's something you really want to do. We all need money to live but money can't be the only motivating factor. You need to be a people person and the care of your patient has to be at the forefront of your mind."



# ASTRA AND SCOTT AMES GET A TASTE OF THE “SUITE” LIFE AT BAYVIEW

Almost every first-time mom feels jittery and anxious about bringing their bundle of joy into the world. For Barbadian radio personality Astra Babb-Ames it was no different and deciding where to have her baby was one of the hardest decisions she had to make during her pregnancy. But when she walked into the doors of Bayview Hospital her angst melted away. “When you get pregnant everyone has an opinion on just about everything. One of those major opinions was about where I would have the baby. Should I do public versus private? If private, then which facility? I discussed it with my husband Scott, and we decided to do a tour of the different facilities. Bayview was our first stop on my list and when we went there, I just knew without a doubt that it was the right place to go, before I even visited anywhere else.”

The warm and welcoming environment, the friendly staff and having all their questions answered just sealed it for Astra and Scott. “When we walked in, we were met by smiling faces. I just felt like I was right at home, I really did. We did the tour and the staff was amazing! We met with Jules Reid the administrator and she answered all of my questions, we spoke to people in the admissions department, the nurses, the midwives, there was no question that was considered insignificant,” she said.

Scott was equally impressed during their first visit. “When you walked in there you were made to feel so welcomed by all the staff. During the stay they kept coming and checking on us asking us if we needed anything, they were just so pleasant.”



Having an ICU at Bayview was also very comforting for Astra. “With all the scary stories that you hear about going to the hospital and things that can happen, you really just want the best for your family when you have to go in there.”

Bayview’s family suite, which makes it possible for a family member to stay at the hospital when you are a patient there, was another big plus for Astra and Scott. “When we did the tour, we saw the family suite and we really wanted it. When we asked about booking it, we were told it was on a first come first serve basis and we were very lucky to get it. After the delivery My husband got to sleep comfortably on the sofa bed in the room. It felt nice that I could be in the same room that night with my husband in the pullout and my baby in the cot next to me. It was beautiful, it was like a hotel room.”

For Astra, Bayview delivered on the high quality of the service and care she was promised. “The best way to describe it is, it’s a hospital with a spa feel to it. My hormones are raging and I am emotional and I am wondering is my baby gonna be ok and the last thing I want to think about is am I going to get the right



service from the hospital that's the last thing on my mind. But Bayview took care of that and said don't worry about it, we are going to take care of you, we are going to make sure that you your baby and husband are comfortable and safe and healthy and that's what they did, that's priceless. I had the most wonderful experience there, everything they told me would happen did."

The couple couldn't say enough about the hospitality of the staff and nurses. From the quality of the food selection to the way the nurses assisted with showing Astra how to feed and bathe baby Ethan, this new mom was really impressed with every aspect of her time at Bayview.

"I felt like the nurses were my aunts, it was like a village coming together to help me. I had a great team, Nurse Gittens stayed with us for the entire time, my doctor Tracey Archer and my husband, everyone was amazing."

Their advice for other expecting parents is to put Bayview on their tour list when they are deciding where to deliver. "It's a very personal decision, and it was the best decision for me and my family, I have a good feeling it would be a good choice for anyone based on my experience, but the best thing is to go see for yourself. I don't think they will be disappointed by what they see, because every day was a good day for me while I was there. I think ultimately when it all comes down to it, Bayview is all about treating you like family, I do know that if I were to have another baby I would be back at Bayview."



# BAYVIEW'S INTENSIVE CARE UNIT MAKES AN IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE

The state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit unveiled at Bayview last year is evidence of our commitment to constantly improve and deliver the best in healthcare services to the patients we serve.

Bayview is the only private hospital in Barbados that has an intensive care unit. This year we have treated 16 patients, in total since opening 26 patients have been treated in the two-bedded Intensive Care Unit which is fully equipped with ventilators, cardiac monitors, and all of the medical equipment necessary to provide level Two Intensive Care Unit support to patients.

The unit is managed by Dr. Dawn Alleyne, ICU Consultant and Doctor in Internal Medicine and Respiratory Medicine. Dr. Alleyne and Dr. Nigel Farnum lead a special team of experienced emergency and intensive care Senior House Officers (SHO's). The SHO's facilitate the necessary 24-hour monitoring care to all patients within the ICU.

Making the bold move to open the ICU has significantly increased the medical capabilities and expanded the level of service that Bayview has to offer. Doctors with practicing privileges have been able to perform more complex surgeries because the ICU allows Bayview to handle surgeries that require post-operative ventilation and high dependency medical patients.

Dr. Alleyne said the ICU provides numerous benefits to patients who have critical medical issues. "If your blood pressure is too low and you can't get it up with normal measures then the ICU is probably the place you will be. We have patients who have had heart attacks and maybe treated in ICU's, people who have acute kidney failure for whatever reason, some of them are treated in ICUs because they require additional support. If you can't breathe and you require machines to help you breathe, the ICU is the place for you."

Dr. Alleyne stated that the overall mission of the unit is to make the best possible attempt "to fix all conditions that we can possibly fix. To recognize where things are abnormal and get them back to a state of normalcy."

