

Nurses as Superstars

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Super stars roam the halls on G11, MD Anderson's stem cell transplantation and cellular therapy unit. Recently, paparazzi caught up with some of these celebrities at an afternoon tea party, a real see-and-be-seen event organized by their agents (managers).

Well aware of the pressures faced every day by this talented and hardworking group of glitterati, agents take every opportunity to pamper them between gigs (patient care activities).

They receive Super Star Awards, too. Recently, for example, a Super Star Award was given to Jessica McLellan, clinical nurse, for her "stellar documentation." According to Patty Johnston, director of clinical nursing, employees are acknowledged on G11 for a number of reasons, such as excellent patient care delivery, working as a team and supporting each other. They also may be recognized for things like Best Point-of-Use Compliance and Best Discharge Time.



When patients or family members compliment their nurses, whether through patient satisfaction surveys or during leadership rounds, Johnston makes sure those nurses are acknowledged for their good work. "We care for stem cell patients for months and months sometimes," she explains. "Patient acuity is high and so is the stress. One of our roles is to help transition patients from acute, curative care to comfort care, and many patients share the grieving process with their nurses." Jackie Ascuna is one clinical nurse who recently was recognized for excellent end-of-life care.

So next time you're on G11, don't be intimidated by the nurses – those giants of exemplary patient care, with their badge bling and glowing faces. Go ahead, ask for an autograph. Tell them you're a fan of their work. They won't mind, because patient care is what they do and they're proud of it.

That's just how they roll.