

Dozens of cards of gratitude are pegged to a bulletin board near the entrance of the North 42 ward at Surrey Memorial Hospital.



Young boy passes away

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD cancer patient Chris, who appeared on The Leader's front page on Wednesday (Oct. 31), passed away on Oct. 30.

Chris was part of a feature story about Dr. Derek Prevost, a physician in Surrey Memorial Hospital's pediatric oncology clinic.

Prevost was treating Chris for neuroblastoma, a cancer of the cells of the nervous system.

Hospital staff organized a pre-Halloween party earlier last month for Chris, who was able to celebrate the occasion with his family.



Chris

Patients: Illnesses now more critical

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She has cancer, but was admitted eight days ago with pneumonia. Her nurse says she hasn't complained about pain or nausea today.

The woman would like to go home. The doctor reassures the family she'll likely be able to be discharged soon.

"We do a lot of end-of-life care here, too," Barrio says on her way back downstairs to finish the second half of her eight-hour shift.

"Sometimes it's really hard. You see unbelievable, terrible things here. We see great things too, but the acuity level of patients has gone up and up and up."

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Hospitalist: Nearly as intense as ER

From page 11

"That was no longer tenable because even those physicians didn't have time in their day to see them all and look after them," explains Samoil.

Physicians attracted to the new role are generally those who are extremely good at acute care medicine. It takes a different skill set to care for someone in hospital as opposed to in the office, Samoil says.

A third of the hospitalist pool are doctors who have transferred from the emergency department.

Samoil was an emergency physician himself for 13 years.

"And then I saw the great need for hospital medicine and transitioned into that," he says. "It's a little bit less intense than emergency medicine – but just barely."

Any patient, at any time in hospital, can "crash" and become acutely ill and have to be resuscitated.

"The processes of illness are such that on an ongoing basis, someone is developing sepsis or a stroke or a heart attack and the hospitalist is there in real time to manage the situation.

"It's real, it's live and it's on the spot."

**WEDNESDAY
IN THE
LEADER:**

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