Following a successful pilot between February and March of this year, UI Health re-launched its PRONTO non-emergency transportation initiative as a permanent patient service on May 15.

PRONTO, a partnership with local health-access startup Kaizen Health, utilizes ride-hailing service Lyft to provide free rides to patients being transitioned home from medical surgical and critical care units.

Inadequate transportation can be a significant barrier to accessing healthcare — and can contribute to slow bed turnover and lower patient satisfaction. With PRONTO — which stands for PROgram for Non-emergency TranspOrtation — UI Health social workers can assess a patient’s transportation needs and, if necessary, arrange for transition home in a Lyft car. The service is available for all adult patients living in Chicago who are ambulatory and expected to depart by 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

“PRONTO is ensuring a positive experience for our patients and their families,” says Rani Morrison, senior director of Care Continuum. “And it’s assisting us in achieving one of our organizational goals: improving throughput. It’s a win-win.”

Thank you to the Nursing, Social Work, Patient Care Services, Materials Management–Logistics, Information Services, Emergency Department, Population Health Sciences, and Health Policy & Strategy teams for their work in bringing this service to our patients!
**UI Health Receives Top Stroke Award**

UI Health is proud to have received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s “Get With The Guidelines”-Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award with Target: Stroke™” Honor Roll Elite Plus,” the highest level of recognition from the AHA/ASA. UI Health is a certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, a designation reserved for health facilities that meet the most rigorous standards for receiving and treating the most complex stroke cases. To learn more about the UI Health Stroke Institute, visit UIHealthStroke.Care.

**UI Health Launches Follow-Up Care Calls**

Starting June 7, patients will receive a follow-up care call within two days after leaving the hospital. The calls will enable us to check on patients during their recovery process to ultimately improve the patients’ experience, and reduce avoidable readmissions. Based on the patients’ answers, a nurse care coordinator may call them to offer help and instructions. Visit the intranet for more information on policy guidelines.

**UI Health Performs Midwest’s First Laser Treatment for AFib**

On May 4, Dr. Erik Wissner, director of Cardiac Electrophysiology, successfully performed the first commercial procedure in the region for minimally invasive pulmonary vein isolation (PVI) with laser video technology to treat patients with atrial fibrillation (AFib). This new treatment advances standard PVI by using laser energy instead of radiofrequency energy to destroy the problematic tissue while providing a direct view into the heart to achieve greater precision in interventional treatment. Congratulations to Dr. Wissner on this impressive achievement!

*The visually guided laser balloon of the HeartLight Endoscopic Ablation System.*
*Photo—CardioFocus, Inc.*
Award Recipients

Dr. Fady Charbel, head of the Department of Neurosurgery, received the Cushing Award for Technical Excellence and Innovation in Neurosurgery at the 2017 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) meeting held last month in Los Angeles. The award was established in 2013 to honor an AANS member for technical prowess and skill and/or innovation in the development of new procedures, which have become part of the arsenal neurosurgeons use to treat disease or trauma. Charbel also is the developer of NOVA — Noninvasive Optimal Vessel Analysis — a software program that can quantify the volume, velocity, and direction of blood flowing through any major vessel in the brain using standard MRI equipment. NOVA technology has led to numerous discoveries about the nature of stroke.

Dr. Peter Orris, chief of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, was presented the World Federation of Public Health Associations’ Lifetime Achievement Award at the World Congress on Public Health last month in Melbourne, Australia. “I am particularly happy for this recognition of our work in environmental public health to have occurred at such an important time of opportunity and threat with respect to climate change,” said Orris. “The recognition by this unique organization, coordinating and leading the world’s public health movement, is a tribute to the work of many of us from the environmental health community.”

UI HEALTH Walks in June

First five people to email Sophie Barish at sophiab@uic.edu will receive a giveaway item!
For more information on these walks, visit the intranet.

Sweetness Run — June 3
Join the Liver Transplant Team for the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation’s 12th annual Sweetness Run on June 3 in Yorkville.

Cancer Community Walk — June 10
Celebrate National Cancer Survivors Day by participating in the Cancer Community Walk on June 10 at the University of Illinois Cancer Center.

Liver Life Walk — June 10
Join the Liver Transplant team at the American Liver Foundation’s Liver Life Walk on June 10 at Diversey Harbor.
HOSPITAL WEEK WAS A HIT!
Over 1,600 employees stopped by Room 1135 on May 11–12 to enjoy treats, plays games, and socialize with fellow staff!

Our donation drive benefiting 8E Adolescent Psych collected nearly 800 items. Thank you for your generous contributions!

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY
The Employee Engagement Survey has officially closed. Our overall response rate was 74% for employees and 36% for practitioners. Thank you to all who participated!