

Feb. 28: Medical News Tips from Baptist Health South Florida:

1. NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY EXPERT BECOMES PATIENT, HIMSELF: On the eve of National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 5-11, Paul Gluck, M.D., chair of the National Patient Safety Foundation, underwent surgery at Baptist Hospital, where he is a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist. Media are welcome to interview Dr. Gluck about his fresh insights into safety from the patient point-of-view, how hospital safety has changed since his first surgery 17 years ago, and how Baptist is carrying its safety campaign directly to the patient. Other Safety Week opportunities include: interviewing Baptist Health's "chief safety officer," plus some of our 400 everyday "safety champions" (non-management staff in every department specially trained to put safety first in everyday operations.) Possible visuals for Safety Week include accompanying Dr. Gluck or a hospital CEO on a safety tour, special displays, staff washing hands, checking patient I.D. bracelets, and more. Please contact Liz Latta elizabetl@baptisthealth.net (786) 596-7860 or Anne Streeter annes@baptisthealth.net 786-596-6534.

2. WOMAN, 46, RECOGNIZES SIGNS OF HEART DISEASE IN HERSELF, DAUGHTER, 14: Women of every age have to listen to their bodies in order to survive heart disease, the #1 killer of American women. That's the message of the "10 Q Report" presented to Congress on Valentine's Day by WomenHeart and the Society for Women's Health Research. The Report lists the top ten unanswered questions, which, if answered through research, could cut the number of premature female deaths from heart disease by half in the next ten years. Vivian, 46, suspected heart disease and got cardiac testing when she started having palpitations, shortness of breath and neck pain. Vivian swung into action again when her 14-year-old daughter started having palpitations and a racing pulse for no apparent reason. (Mother and daughter had different heart problems, and treatment.) To speak to Vivian, who is now a member of the WomenHeart support group at Baptist, the coordinator of that group, or Vivian's cardiologist, please contact Liz Latta elizabetl@baptisthealth.net (786)-596-7860 or Anne Smith asmith@baptisthealth.net (786) 596-6654.

3. VIRTUAL HEART PATIENT DOES EVERYTHING BUT BLEED: Feb. 27-March 3, two virtual cardiac therapy labs in a 90-foot semi will visit Baptist Hospital to help physicians learn to use new heart rhythm devices and sharpen their existing skills. The virtual labs, owned by Medtronic, use computers to simulate diagnostic and treatment challenges, creating the look of real X-ray imaging and the feel of real patients-- with no risk to a living human being. Doctors will simulate implantation of defibrillators, pacemakers, and cardiac resynchronization devices. To visit the labs, interview technicians and/or "operate" on a simulated "patient," please call Liz Latta elizabetl@baptisthealth.net (786) 596-7860 or Anne Smith asmith@baptisthealth.net (786) 596-6654.