

Web Link: <http://www.pharostribune.com/local/x1387890309/Emergency-room-staffing-improves>

# Pharos-Tribune

March 27, 2014

## Emergency room staffing improves

### Five full-time physicians sign on

by Mitchell Kirk Pharos-Tribune

**Pharos-Tribune**

--- "Staff at Logansport Memorial Hospital say conditions at the emergency room are improving three months into the new group's stay.

Advocating Health ER LLC, out of Terre Haute, was contracted to run Logansport Memorial Hospital's emergency room at the beginning of this year.

The agreement followed contract terminations within the last year with two groups that were unable to adequately staff the emergency room.

Since the new group started, the emergency room staff has grown to five full-time physicians, two part-time physicians and three medical scribes.

Dr. Kayur Patel, chief medical officer for Advocating Health ER and medical director of the emergency room, said the scribes "augment the physicians' workflow," allowing them "more eye-to-eye time with patients rather than a computer."

Patel added a consistency has been established in the emergency room by setting protocols all staff members agree upon and are familiar with. This consistency is enhanced, he continued, by having a staff that is committed to just one emergency room. He said it all ultimately decreases the time patients have to spend there.

Serenity Alter, a physician liaison at the emergency room, said she's noticed the staff has been a lot happier since more consistent physicians have joined the staff.

Renee Sholty, director of Emergency Services at the hospital, remarked favorably upon how Patel has been meeting with physicians in specialized fields at the hospital to improve how the emergency room interacts with other departments.

"It's just made that team thing huge," Sholty said, "not just the emergency room, but the hospital as a whole."

Sholty added she has noticed patient wait times improving as well.

"I'm very, very happy," she said. "I think it's going to be a really good year."

Vicki Byrd, vice president of Planning and Development at the hospital, seconded Sholty's thoughts on the matter.

"We're pleased to have full-time physicians here integrated into the staff," Bryd said. "It makes a huge difference in the care we're able to provide to the patient."

Mitchell Kirk is a staff reporter at the Pharos-Tribune. He can be reached at 574-732-5130 or [mitchell.kirk@pharostribune.com](mailto:mitchell.kirk@pharostribune.com). Follow him: @PharosMAK

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# PHAROS-TRIBUNE

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BY MITCHELL KIRK  
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