

Medical research at Carolinas Medical Center leads to new process to improve safety

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Research at Carolinas Medical Center has resulted in an agreement between Carolinas HealthCare System and a Charlotte biotechnology firm that will utilize a new therapy which has been successful in preventing sudden kidney failure in patients who receive contrast injections during imaging procedures.

The research team, led by Dr. W. Patrick Burgess, a kidney specialist with Metrolina Nephrology Associates, discovered that the use of sodium bicarbonate before and after the administration of the dye appreciably reduced the rate of kidney failure, from 14 percent to less than two percent.

Participating researchers included several physicians from the CMC Department of Internal Medicine, from Charlotte Radiology and from The Sanger Clinic. Others included the CMC pharmacy and Cannon Research Center. It resulted in a published article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in 2004.

A multi-year partnership announced today joins CHS with MD Scientific, LLC, the company that developed the patented bicarbonate therapy method. This form of renal failure is commonly referred

to as Contrast Induced Nephropathy or CIN. In some cases, CIN can require dialysis.

"The use of this method has virtually eliminated CIN at our medical facilities over the last three years," said Paul Franz, Executive Vice President for Operations at CHS. "We have been extremely pleased with the results of our related clinical trials. We know from direct experience that this form of treatment can reduce costs, reduce hospital stays, and — most importantly — contribute to the margin of safety that our patients expect. It's a manifestation of quality care that we are very pleased to make available."

Shade Mecum, President of MD Scientific, said, "Carolinas HealthCare System has once again demonstrated its commitment to improving healthcare by being one of the first licensees of this method to protect patients."

CHS facilities in the licensing agreement include:

- Anson Community Hospital
- Bon Secours/St. Francis Hospital
- Carolinas Medical Center
- CMC-Lincoln
- CMC-Mercy
- CMC-Pineville

- CMC-Union
- CMC-University
- Cleveland Regional Medical Center
- Grace Hospital
- Kings Mountain Hospital
- Morehead Imaging Center
- Roper Hospital
- Valdesse General Hospital

CHS is the largest healthcare system in the Carolinas, and third largest public system in the nation. MD Scientific, founded in September 2003, received a patent for bicarbonate therapy in March. The company has also developed a software application to calculate insulin dosage for critically ill patients with elevated blood glucose and to control blood glucose levels. For more information about the company, please visit www.mdscientific.com.

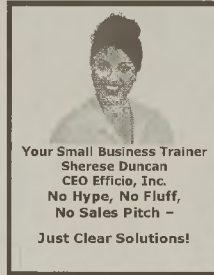
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Crystal Richardson, Melanie Fabbiano and Denise Richardson chow down at the recent Ciao Festival held uptown. The festival highlighted Italian cuisine and culture.

JERRY CHAMBERS

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