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duke university medical center

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 5

FEBRUARY 5, 1971

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA



THE GRADUATES—These seven persons recently moved up to PCA II following an intensive two-week course. From left to right, first row, are Arthur Lyon, Dorothy Lunsford, and William Perry. Back row: Donald Newman, Abner Mason, Randolph Jacobs, and Archie Pretty. (photo by Lewis Parrish)

Seven PCA's End Course

Seven patient care assistants proudly received certificates promoting them to PCA II at ceremonies January 22.

The PCA's, six men and woman, had completed a two-week refresher course designed to give them classroom training necessary for the promotion. All had previously been doing the practical duties of a PCA II and needed only the classroom work.

The course emphasized review of body structure and functions and a review of the ward procedures PCA II's are expected to perform.

Mrs. Cynthia McCaskill, RN, and Mrs. Eula Coleman, ALPN, both of Patient Care Education, instructed the course.

A new class of some two dozen students began January 25.

The graduates include Randolph Jacobs, Dorothy Lunsford Arthur Lyon, Abner Mason, Donald Newman, William Perry, and Archie Pretty.

Duke, Blue Cross Begin New Plan

Duke Hospital has been approved to receive an advance of \$186,600 as a participant in the current payment program of North Carolina Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Inc.

Dr. Stuart M. Sessoms, Hospital director, said that the aim of the program is to help control the cost of health care by increasing the Hospital's cash balance through paying for services rendered to the Blue Cross subscribers immediately rather than a month or so later.

Maintaining such a cash reserve, he said lessens the likelihood of having to borrow money at high interest rates to use as operating capital.

"Duke Hospital's operation is a break-even one," Dr. Sessoms explained. "Our operating budget depends on our income, and that means that if our collections are slow, we have less money with which to run the Hospital"

The Blue Cross-Blue Shield current payment program is aimed at helping a hospital avoid the possibility of borrowing money by providing what amounts to a cash reserve. The money

would come to the hospital anyway, in the form of insurance payments on behalf of Blue Cross subscribers. But Blue Cross is paying it in advance to help the hospital.

A Patient Is . . .

The following definition of "A Patient" was taken from Hospital Highlights, the newspaper of the Dallas County Hospital District. It is reprinted with permission of C. Jack Price, administrator.

A PATIENT. . . is the most important person in our hospital.

A PATIENT. . . is not dependent on us—we are dependent on him.

A PATIENT. . . is not an interruption of our work—he is the purpose of it.

A PATIENT. . . does us a favor when he is hospitalized in our hospital—we are doing him a favor by serving him.

A PATIENT. . . is part of our business—not an outsider.

A PATIENT. . . is not a cold statistic—he is flesh and blood with feelings and emotions like our own.

A PATIENT. . . is a person who comes to us for treatment and care—it is our job to fill those needs.

A PATIENT. . . is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give him.

A PATIENT. . . is the fellow that makes it possible to pay our salary whether you are a technician, storekeeper, office employe, or nurse.

A PATIENT. . . is the life-blood of this and every other hospital.