

BROADCAST-A checkup on virtual nursing

ANCHOR LEAD-IN: Virtual care isn't something that's only reserved for urgent care or primary care visits. Now, it's a growing trend inside *hospitals* ... including at two OSF HealthCare locations in Peoria and Rockford. Virtual nursing is helping speed up hospital admissions and discharges and floor nurses say it's giving them more time to spend one-on-one with patients.

VO or Radio Package

Bedside nurses at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria and OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's in Rockford say having virtual nurses to do more routine tasks such as admissions and discharges has given them an estimated hour a day back for more direct care. Nurse Dalton Havens is a fan of the new approach.

"Since you do have more time with each patient, it just makes it a little bit easier to be able to spend the time to give them (patients) more detailed care than trying to rush around trying to get all these tasks done so you can get to the next thing and get to the next thing and the next thing." (:18)

OSF leaders are currently reviewing specific technology to expand virtual nursing. Meanwhile, within the next 12 months, the virtual nursing program is set to expand to an additional 350 beds across 12 units throughout OSF HealthCare.