There are Many Forms of Intentional Prayer

Your praying should be intentional. Your congregation will want to decide what form this intentional prayer will take. Some congregations may want to set a particular time during which each member will pray in private. Or, some may find it helpful to form a prayers group, which will meet regularly. Other congregations may prefer setting aside time during morning worship or the Sunday School time to pray intentionally for your nursing unit. Some congregations find Prayer Chains meaningful. How your congregation chooses to pray is not as important as that it be regular and that it be intentional.

The Advocate Mission

To serve the health needs of individuals, families and communities through a wholistic philosophy rooted in our fundamental understanding of human beings as created in the image of God.

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Prayer Makes a Difference in Healing

Dr. Randolph Byrd, a cardiologist, ran a clinical trial in which randomly selected patients were prayed for while others were not. This was a double blind study in that neither doctors nor patients knew which patients were being prayed for. In addition, the people praying for the patients did not know the patients. This statistically sound study showed that the patients prayed for experienced fewer episodes of congestive heart failure, (8 vs. 20), needed fewer diuretics (5 vs. 15), experienced fewer cardiac arrests (3 vs. 14), and were prescribed fewer antibiotics.¹

¹ Randolph C. Byrd, MD, “Positive Therapeutic Effects of Intercessory Prayer in a Coronary Care Unit Population,” Southern Medical Journal, Vo. 81, No. 7 (July 1988), 826.

You are Partners In Healing through Prayer

You, as a congregation, are joining us as Partners in Healing with Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. We ask that you pray for the patients, families, and staff on a particular nursing unit. You will do this intentionally during a particular month. Periodically, BroMenn will send you information about how your prayer has made a difference.

There are Many Things for which You Can Pray

For Healing
The most obvious thing to pray for is healing. The patients on the unit you pray for all need to experience healing.

For Lowering Pain
Despite all of our modern interventions, many patients experience varying amounts of pain. In fact, pain is the most frequent complaint given about a hospital stay. A patient’s pain is most often physical. A patient, their family member, or the staff caring for them may also experience emotional and/or spiritual pain as well. You may want to pray that patients, family and staff will find both tolerance for and relief from their pain.

For Acceptance
God created us such that we age and die. For reasons we do not fully understand, some people become ill, have accidents, and all of the modern technology of medical science is just not enough. Some people do not recover. You may want to pray for patients, family members and staff who need help accepting chronic debilitation or even the inevitability of death.

For a Good Death
Most religious belief tells us that death is not always bad. To be able to die well, to be able to die with dignity, with little suffering, and after closure has been reached is to die a good death. You may find it within yourself to pray that those who are dying may be able to experience a good death.

For Guidance
Some patients and their families need guidance as they make medical decisions. A decision may need to be made to start or end treatment. You may want to pray for guidance for those facing difficult decisions.

For Patience
We all need patience in many situations. Patients, family and staff can always use a prayer for patience, calm presence or a sense of God’s love.

For What Is In Your Heart
When you pray for what is in your heart, you can never go wrong. Above all else, when you pray, pray what is in your heart. You may want to remember your own illness or injury to help you in knowing what to pray for.