

## **Area RNs Prepare For National Critical Care Certification**

ROME (June 2004) – Thirty registered nurses from hospitals in Utica, Hamilton, Oneida and Rome attended a Critical Care Registered Nurses' (CCRN) Review Course at Rome Memorial Hospital June 10 and 11 to prepare them for the national CCRN examination.

Rome Memorial Hospital sponsored the intensive two-day review course "to give area nurses the same opportunities for advancing their skills and professionalism as is available in larger cities," said Education Director Gale Barone, BS, RN. "We brought the instructor to the local area to make the course more accessible for nurses throughout the Mohawk Valley."

The course was taught by Kay Hoppe, RN, BSN, CCRN, a critical care educator who conducts seminars throughout the United States. Her clinical experience of more than 18 years includes telemetry, intensive and coronary care units, burn, trauma and cardiac surgery. She works as a staff nurse in critical care and is a basic life support and advanced cardiac life support instructor.

"In addition to preparing the nurses to take the national exam, the two-day course was an excellent opportunity for the nurses to update their skills and knowledge," Mrs. Barone said.

The course was organized to reflect the major conceptual areas required for the exam including cardiovascular, pulmonary, endocrine, neurological, hematologic, gastrointestinal and renal systems.

CCRN designation is highly regarded as recognition of advanced knowledge and clinical expertise in the care of critically ill patients and their families, according to Mrs. Barone. Research studies have specifically linked CCRN certification to higher levels of clinical knowledge, experience and skill.

Upon completion of the exam, successful applicants are granted CCRN status for a period of three years. Re-certification requires either re-testing or 100 hours of continuing education and direct bedside clinical practice.

The hospital used part of its H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant to coordinate the critical care nurse training program. The funding covered part of the cost of the two-day seminar, as well as a self-study book and exam fee for the hospital staff who participated.

### **Good luck on the CCRN Exam!**

JoAnn Hunt, RN  
Shirley Smith, RN  
Michele Batterson, RN  
Karen Liebi, RN  
Laura Fawley, RN  
Tina Short, RN  
Joan Whipple, RN

Mary Ann Pesta, RN  
Teresa Bell, RN  
Kathleen O'Rourke, RN  
Celeste Campbell, RN  
Domenick Romanelli, RN, MS  
James Watts, RN  
Richard Simpson, RN