

For more information, contact: Kim Farrell,  
Public Relations assistant, at 337-5309

## Risk Management Coordinator appointed at Rome Memorial Hospital



Deborah Sherwood, RN, CRRN, has been appointed Risk Management Coordinator at Rome Memorial Hospital.

The Risk Management Coordinator focuses on safety. “By analyzing potential risk and anticipating problems, we’re able to take steps to prevent injuries or medical errors before they ever occur,” Sherwood said. “Our goal is to protect our patients, visitors and employees by taking a proactive approach to reduce risk.”

Sherwood must be aware of all aspects of the hospital’s operations, from the business office to nursing units to parking lot maintenance. In addition, she is responsible for delivering education to hospital employees aimed at reducing risk and increasing overall safety. One of the tasks that she has been handling in her first months on the job is the evaluation of an electronic occurrence reporting system for implementation at the hospital.

“The goals of risk management cannot be accomplished alone,” Sherwood explained. “Adverse outcomes can be avoided when all staff members work together, stay informed and respond appropriately. Our Risk Management Program works to facilitate communication and teamwork, and support best practices in safety and security to improve performance throughout the organization.”

A Registered Nurse at the hospital since 2005, Sherwood is well qualified for the job, having earned an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science in Nursing, from St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center School of Nursing, Syracuse, in 1992, as well as being a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse. In addition, Sherwood has had further training in Healthcare Risk Management.

“In healthcare, there is a major emphasis on prevention. If you take good care of yourself today, you’ll have fewer health problems tomorrow. It’s this same philosophy that guides the hospital’s Risk Management Program,” Sherwood said. “To coin a phrase, *an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*”