Emergency Care ... With a Personal Touch

What impressed Brunswick resident Paula LaManna the most about Southwest General's new Brunswick Emergency Room (ER) was the attention the staff gave to her husband and daughter while she was being treated.

“They didn’t only treat me, they treated my family,” recalls the work-at-home mom who has made two recent ER visits for severe dehydration. “When they wheeled me back to the Treatment Room, they let my family go with me. And they explained everything that was going on to my daughter, who was a little nervous. It made her feel so much better.”

And, she laughs, they gave four-year-old Angelina the biggest Popsicle she had ever seen!

Earlier this year, a bout with the flu left Paula dehydrated, fatigued and in need of emergency treatment. A few months later, she became dehydrated again after a bad reaction to allergy medication.

She received three liters of intravenous fluids during six to seven hours of treatment to hydrate her body’s cells.

“I was really weak and out of it when I arrived, but the staff was wonderful—the doctor, the nurses, everybody,” Paula recalls. “They do so much to make you comfortable. I know dehydration is bad, but it is preventable, and I felt kind of silly going to the ER. They reassured me and treated me just as seriously as any other patient.”

Paula also loved the warm, microwavable blankets.

“I felt like I was at a spa,” she laughs. “If they had somebody doing my nails, I would have been in seventh heaven.”

After treatment, the staff sent Paula home with a large packet of information about dehydration and how to prevent it in the future.

“It's wonderful to have this kind of treatment so close to home in Brunswick,” Paula says.

Dehydration

Think about an engine running without oil. Its unlubricated moving parts would soon grind to a halt. Dehydration does the same to your body.

Dehydration is the lack of water and fluids your body cells need to function. It can be caused by not drinking enough fluids or by losing too much fluid due to vomiting, diarrhea or excessive sweating or urination. Symptoms can include severe fatigue, dry mouth, lack of tears and low or no urine output.

Mild cases of dehydration can be corrected by drinking water, but severe cases may require medical attention.