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## Rome Memorial Hospital seeks patience from patients

Rome Memorial Hospital is seeking patience from its patients as it implements a new hospital information system (HIS). The conversion starts at 11 p.m. Friday, July 29, and is expected to be completed Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

“For the last 18 months, the hospital has thoroughly prepared for the new system by training staff and testing the applications. However, as with any new system, there is a learning curve and period of adjustment,” said President/Chief Executive Officer Basil J. Ariglio.

“Our first priority is maintaining a safe environment for our patients; but, we do ask for our patients’ patience as our staff adjusts to the new technology over the next few weeks,” he said.

The new HIS replaces more than 30 separate financial, clinical and administrative systems – everything from patient registration, billing and payroll to patient scheduling, nursing documentation, and medication administration.

The project also includes several new applications that will address the hospital’s primary goal of converting from a paper-based patient medical record to a fully electronic health record. The new HIS will also provide online clinical decision support to standardize care, advance patient safety and achieve better outcomes. Every clinician involved in the patient’s care will be able to access the most current information electronically from inside or outside the hospital, rather than using a paper chart.

“As these systems go live, we will lessen the risk of medical errors. We will reduce unnecessary duplication of diagnostic testing. We will provide better communication between care providers. And more importantly, we will give our clinicians more time to spend at bedside with their patients,” Ariglio said.