Dry-erase whiteboards that are being placed on units and in patient rooms are improving communication between caregivers, patients and their families.

The whiteboards in patient rooms list information such as the patient’s name, his or her nurse and doctor, a family contact, and the expected date of discharge. Uptake has increased thanks to a staff-driven improvement project using the principles of Lean Six Sigma.

“The ‘Room and Board’ project has helped standardize and significantly increase the use of bedside boards,” says Karen Dunn, nurse manager of Unit 3 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The project team also designed and erected unit boards to improve communication between nursing and allied health staff.

So far the boards have been placed in Unit 3 of the QEH and at Kings County Memorial Hospital.

The Room and Board project team has realized all of its goals; for example, expected date of discharge was posted on 80 per cent of bedside boards on Unit 3 and 63 per cent of boards at the KCMH. In addition, “calls and interruptions” at the desk were reduced by over 1,000 in Unit 3 and by 300 at KCMH over a two-week period.

Long-serving employees offer more than years of experience

Long-term Health PEI employees bring other attributes to their care of Islanders besides their actual years of experience in the health-care field, Minister of Health and Wellness Doug Currie said.

“Having reached the milestones you are celebrating in your careers today means you have applied yourselves to your work with commitment and passion,” Currie told those gathered June 13 for Health PEI’s Long-Term Service Awards, one of three such ceremonies during the month. “You are skilled, enthusiastic health care professionals and each of you has made a difference in the lives of many.”

Long-term service award receptions also were held in June at the Queen Elizabeth and Prince County hospitals, which saw 79 staff and physicians from the QEH and 35 staff and physicians at the PCH receive pins marking 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service.