Lakewood Hospital has recently acquired an advanced pharmaceutical tool for educating patients about their medications – the Apple iPad.

With a grant from Lakewood Hospital Foundation’s Ambulance Chase, the inpatient Pharmacy purchased several iPads that pharmacists use to share medication information directly with patients and caregivers. The pharmacists say the iPad is a valuable instant support tool for providing the best, most current pharmaceutical information available – right at the patient’s bedside. The iPad’s multimedia resources, like internet connectivity and video, are helpful for showing patients how to correctly take their drugs through self-injection or with an inhaler, for example.

“The iPad allows us to create a much more personal interaction with the patient,” notes Lakewood Hospital Pharmacy Supervisor Brian Rose, RPh. “We can actually hand them the device and point to the information we’re talking about. The information is understood and accepted better when presented in this fashion because the patient is actively engaged in the learning process.”

“Pharmacists were among the first healthcare professionals to recognize the benefits of technology, and they have continued to lead the way through the years,” says Shannan Ritchie, Interim President of Lakewood Hospital. “Our pharmacists’ use of the iPad as a point-of-care education tool supports Lakewood Hospital’s patient-centered care model.”

In this case, an Apple a day doesn’t keep the doctor away; it helps educate the patient just a little more interactively.

The acquisition of this equipment was funded by Lakewood Hospital Foundation’s annual Ambulance Chase, a family-friendly 5K run. This year’s Ambulance Chase - presented by Donald Martens & Sons Ambulance Services - is Sunday, May 4, at Lakewood Park. In addition to a B-tag timed 5K race, there will also be a 1-mile fun walk and a special Children’s Chase for kids under 8.