

# Premier Pulse

News for Our Providers

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 6 | JUNE 2022



## Have You Asked All the Right Questions?

By Scott Kanagy, DO, chief medical officer, Upper Valley Medical Center



How do children view the current state of the world? From the Covid-19 pandemic, recent school and hospital shootings, opioid pandemic,

diversity questions, or the war in Ukraine. I struggle to imagine all the thoughts and questions they must have, considering the information they have at their fingertips every second of every day.

There has been a significant increase in pediatric and adolescent mental health needs presenting to the emergency departments in the Dayton area. The lack of resources available to children and families is concerning. Many children wait a week or more to get placed in an appropriate treatment facility. Often

children must be transferred to Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, or Indianapolis to get treatment. This distance separates families and burdens them to find ways to stay close to their loved ones for the treatment they need.

Several organizations are looking at resources to help manage this health care emergency in the Dayton area. We should celebrate these efforts. However, we need to do more. I see a generation that is struggling to understand their place in society. It is our responsibility to reach out to these children and give them the support they need.

How will the events of our generation affect the next generation? Have we given the younger generation the resources to be a better generation? What I see today is a generation of young children who have

endured a lot. All generations have seen challenges; this generation is no different, but I fear that this generation's challenges are more silent than those of the past. And I believe the best way we can support this generation is to lend a helping hand of support.

Mental health struggles have no boundaries and affect all. I hope every person who reads this article is compelled to make meaningful connections with today's younger generation. Take the time to be curious. Ask them what they are feeling and thinking. Many children will need to be approached several times and with genuine curiosity to make a connection. Taking the time to do this will be invaluable to them and you.

Please take the time to talk to those younger individuals in your life.

# Present on Admission (POA) status: Why does it matter?

Andrew B. Maigur, MD, system director, Premier Physician Advisor Program



Having worked clinically as a hospitalist, I was often queried by a clinical documentation specialist (CDS) or coding specialist (CS) to document whether a particular diagnosis was “present on admission” (POA) or not. This was often a challenging question to answer as the majority of our patients do not read

medical textbooks before they present to our doors. Complex clinical presentations and long length of stays made chart reviews arduous. Nevertheless, it was not until I entered into the role of physician advisor that I fully understood why POA status documentation matters.

It did not take exceptionally long to realize that the impact was significant to both facility and provider metrics, as noted below:

- POA status can determine the final coded DRG (diagnosis related group), which in turn affects metrics such as CMI (case mix index), LOS (Length of stay) and hospital reimbursement.
- It can also significantly affect quality metrics, including CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) readmission metrics as well as serve as exclusions for PSIs (patient safety indicator). A good example: the diagnosis of sepsis, when present on admission, serves as an exclusion from PSI-04 sepsis mortality metric.

- It affects the HAC (hospital acquired condition) metric. Example: DVT or pulmonary thrombosis not present on admission equates to an HAC.
- In some cases, it affects the VIZIENT risk adjusted methodology (fancy word for “how sick” your patients are).

It is important to remember acute diagnoses documented in the admission history and physical are considered POA. The qualifying principal diagnosis that necessitates hospitalization meets POA status. It is imperative to document POA status on all secondary diagnoses. As a clinician I assumed there were only two responses to the question of POA status: Yes or No. I was wrong. There is a third status as indicated below. “Clinically unable to determine” codes to a W indicator which is equivalent to POA Yes.

CMS Indicator	CMS POA Meaning	POA Equivalent
Y	Yes	
W	Clinically unable to determine	Counts as POA = YES
N	No	
U	Unknown	Counts as POA = NO

In summary, document POA status on all secondary diagnoses compliantly and accurately. We owe our patients an accurate medical record that reflects the severity of illness and intensity of services provided to care for them.





# CompuNet Clinical Laboratories Introduces At-Home COVID Test Kits for Purchase

CompuNet now offers the FlowFlex™ COVID Antigen at-home test kit at 16 area Patient Service Centers. The easy-to-use FlowFlex™ antigen test has FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and is considered a rapid COVID test with results available in 15 minutes.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, CompuNet has led the way locally in being a full-service COVID provider offering swab collections, testing, and both Moderna and Pfizer vaccine clinics. Now, with the growing trend in at-home COVID testing, CompuNet has introduced a way for patients to conveniently purchase a COVID test kit while visiting a patient service center for lab testing. Additionally, Medicare and many other payers are now reimbursing for the cost of the at-home COVID tests.

Kits are priced at \$12 each and can be purchased at any time during office hours.

If the patient is a Medicare beneficiary, they are eligible to receive up to eight free tests per month.

CompuNet will bill Medicare directly for the tests; therefore, the patient will not be responsible for the cost of the test.

The following CompuNet patient service centers have the FlowFlex™ COVID antigen test kits in stock. For address and hours of operation, visit [Compunetlab.com](https://www.compunetlab.com). No appointment necessary.

- Beavercreek  
- Lakeview
- Centerville (two Locations)  
- Miami Valley Hospital South  
- Southmed Building
- Englewood  
- Miami Valley Hospital North
- Huber Heights  
- Miami Valley Health Center  
Huber Heights
- Kettering (two Locations)  
- Claybourne  
- Park Place
- Middletown  
- Atrium Medical Center
- Montgomery (Cincinnati Area)
- Piqua
- Springboro
- Springfield
- West Chester
- Troy  
- Upper Valley Medical Center
- Vandalia
- Versailles





MEDICAL STAFF PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Committee Positions Open for Medical Staff

By Percy Mitchell, MD, medical staff president, Atrium Medical Center



It is time to begin planning for the next terms of office for our Medical Staff Operating Committee and representation on the Premier Medical Executive Committee. Our MSOC is an oversight committee of the Quality Improvement Council and the Conduct and Wellness Committee. Terms of office are from

Jan. 1, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2024. Meetings have been the second Tuesday of each month and mostly virtual for the past two years.

I am calling this to everyone's attention because these positions are filled through elections, which require a timeline of monthly intervals for notification, applications, voting and tally, and orientation prior to beginning the term.

In addition to President-elect William Andrew, MD, and chair of MSOC Heather Adkins, MD, the following chair positions will be filled through elections: anesthesia, emergency medicine, hospital medicine, medical imaging, medicine, neuropsychiatry, OB/GYN, orthopedic surgery, pathology, pediatrics, and surgery. A president-elect will be elected and serve on the MSOC for two years before assuming the position of president beginning Jan. 1, 2025.



More to come, but if you have thoughts or questions you would like to discuss, please reach out to me at [pmitchel@premierhealth.com](mailto:pmitchel@premierhealth.com). Participation is quite worthwhile, and it is always best to have a seat at the table.



# Hematologist from London Loves to Travel



**Sana Jeffreys, MD**

**What is your clinical specialty?**

Hematology/  
Oncology

**Where did you go to school?**

University of Manchester  
St. George's University  
Medical College of Wisconsin

**What brought you to Premier Health?**

To be closer to family

**Why did you choose medicine as a career?**

Medicine incorporated the best of science and its ability to change lives.

**Who are the people who influenced and/or mentored you?**

My mother, who worked with mentally ill adults and then survivors of domestic abuse. She taught me compassion, patience, and perseverance.

**What is one thing most people don't know about you?**

That I have the good fortune to live in many places.

**Where is your hometown?**

London, England

**What, if any, sports team(s) do you cheer for?**

Liverpool Football Club

**What is the last book you read?**

"Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha" by Roddy Doyle

**What is your favorite song in your playlist?**

I will listen to most genres and really have no preference.

**What is your favorite food?**

Pasta

**What is your favorite hobby?**

Traveling

**What is your favorite animal?**

Cats of any size

**Where is your favorite vacation spot?**

Any city

**Describe something for which you are especially thankful:**

I am thankful to my parents and the community I grew up in.

**Pick a side**

**iPhone or Android?**

iPhone

**Early bird or night owl?**

Early bird

**Beach bum or mountain hiker?**

Mountain hiker

**Dress shoes or tennis shoes?**

Dress shoes

**Paperback or e-reader?**

Paperback

**Coffee or tea?**

Tea

**Cooking or baking?**

Neither

**Sweet or salty?**

Sweet



# Information Blocking Rule Reminder

On Feb. 24, 2021, the *ONC 21st Century Cures Act* became effective, making it illegal to block information from patients and requiring that health care entities provide patients with immediate access to their personal health information.

The Information Blocking Rule requires the laboratory to release test results to the patient *at the same time* results are reported to the provider.

## What This Means to Your Patient

If your patient has received laboratory testing services from CompuNet, the patient will have access to results, *including pathology results*, potentially before you can contact the patient. It is recommended that you discuss with your patients the possibility of having access to results before you will have reviewed them. With this understanding, the patient may determine that it is best to wait until you contact them rather than accessing MyChart or CompuNet's patient portal, My Labs Now.

If you would like to review the "No Blocking Rule", please see the Premier Health memo below regarding the 21st Century Cures Act Information Blocking Rule, dated February 17, 2021

**\*\*\* The following memo is being reissued and updated after the ONC 21st Century Cures Act's implementation was temporarily delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic \*\*\***

The ONC 21st Century Cures Act prohibits blocking information from patients and requires that patients have immediate access to electronic health information and can easily exchange information in their medical records. This change was effective Nov. 2, 2020, but then was delayed until Feb. 24, 2021. Organizations can be penalized up to \$1 million per violation for failing to comply with this rule, unless such failure falls into one of eight limited exceptions. Enforcement is possible for violations that occur on or after April 5, 2021.

## Background

The law was originally passed in 2016 to help bring new treatments to market more quickly. One provision prohibits "Information Blocking" to help facilitate unfettered access to patient records by other providers and patients themselves. A final rule containing definitions and details of what this entails was released on May 1, 2020. The final rule defines Information Blocking as "a practice that is likely to interfere with access, exchange, or use of electronic health information."

## What does this mean for Premier Health hospitals, entities, physicians, and clinical teams?

- Defined parts of the patient record must be immediately available to the patient in real time without any delays, except if they meet very specific requirements.
- Similarly, we must have transmission processes for other provider entities.
- Two main changes will occur on Feb. 24, 2021:
  1. All test results will be released to the patient at the same time they are reported to the provider (preliminary results are not released) unless they meet one of the eight limited exceptions or as otherwise required by state or federal law.
  2. Most provider, nursing, and other clinical notes will be visible in MyChart when signed. This includes but may not be limited to ambulatory, acute care, emergency department, physician progress notes, H&P, consult notes and discharge summaries.

## Are there any EXCEPTIONS to the Information Blocking Rule?

- It will not be information blocking for an actor to not fulfill or otherwise interfere with a request for access, exchange or use of electronic health information (EHI):

**1. Preventing Patient Harm** (most relevant for providers)—if the conduct is necessary and reasonable to prevent harm to a patient or another person IF all of the following conditions are met:

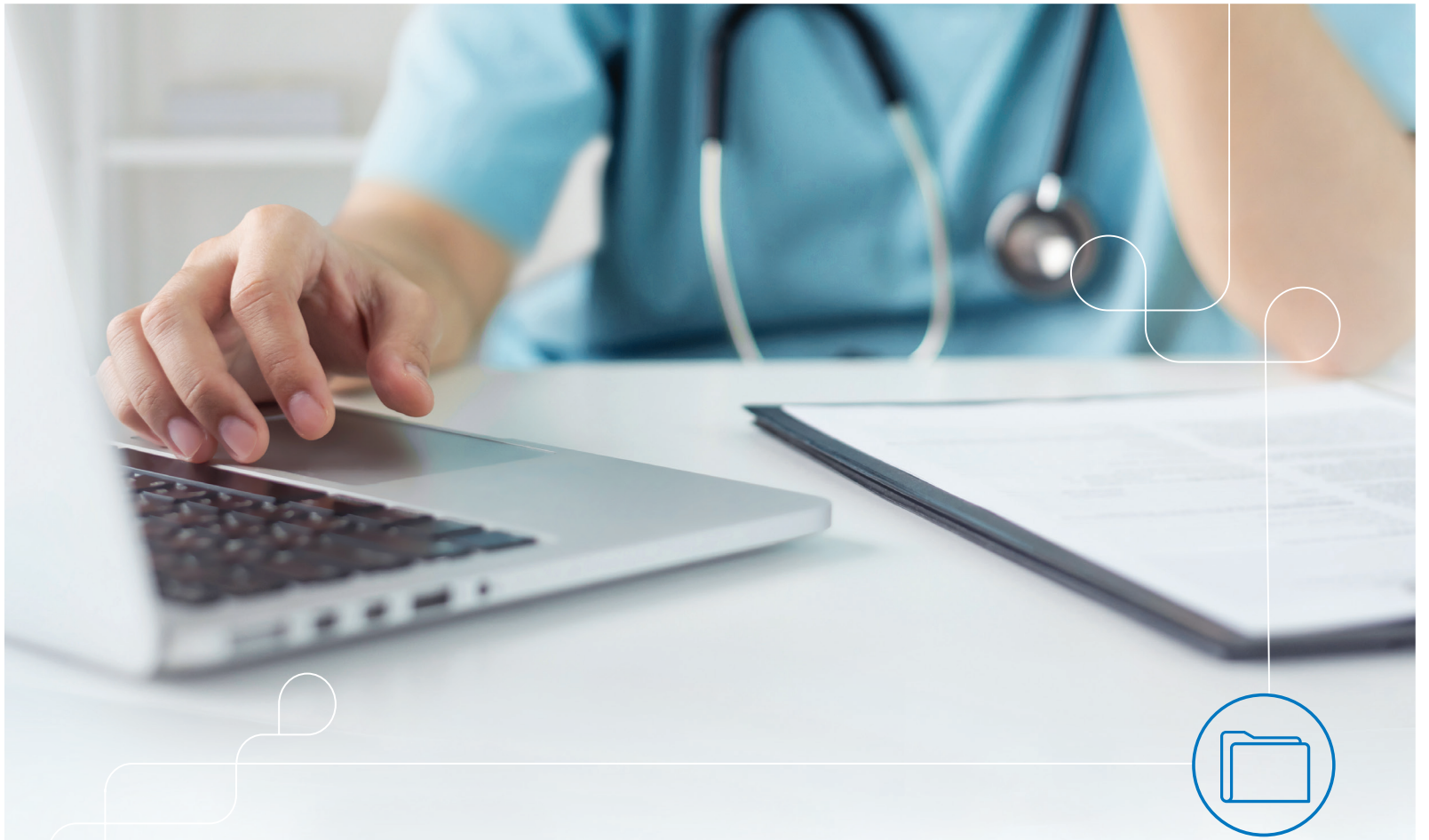
- Actor must hold a reasonable belief that the action will substantially reduce a risk of harm AND the practice must be no broader than necessary; AND
- Action must satisfy at least one condition from each of:
  - Type of risk (as determined by practitioner or due to misidentified, mismatched or corrupt data); AND
  - Type of harm (practitioner determines access would likely harm the patient or another person); AND
  - Implementation basis (is consistent with Premier Health policy); AND
- If based on a practitioner's determination, the action must be implemented consistent with the patient's right to request review of an individualized determination of risk of harm.

\*If you believe the exception applies and you can satisfy all three of the conditions above, there will be a box to "uncheck" that will block the release to the patient's MyChart. The provider **MUST** thoroughly document in his/her note the specific clinical justification for not releasing the result.

\*\*Emotional distress, by itself, will likely not suffice.

**2. Privacy**—to protect an individual's privacy, provided certain conditions are met.





3. **Security**—to protect the security of EHI, provided certain conditions are met.
  4. **Infeasibility**—if the request is infeasible, provided certain conditions are met.
  5. **Health IT Performance**—to take reasonable and necessary measures to make health IT temporarily unavailable or to degrade the health IT’s performance for the benefit of the overall performance of the health IT, provided certain conditions are met.
  6. **Content & Manner**—to limit the content of its response to a request to access, exchange, or use EHI or the manner in which it fulfills a request, provided certain conditions are met.
  7. **Fees**—to charge fees, including fees that result in a reasonable profit margin, for accessing, exchanging, or using EHI, provided certain conditions are met.
  8. **Licensing**—to license interoperability elements for EHI to be accessed, exchanged, or used, provided certain conditions are met.
- Patients’ health information requested prior to Feb. 24, 2021, will be released pursuant to the laws, rules and policies in place at the time, and as specifically authorized on the patient’s consent forms.

**We encourage providers to do the following before and after Feb. 24, 2021:**

- Have conversations with your patients so they understand there is a very high likelihood that they will have access to their test results before you will have reviewed them.
- Communicate your process for follow-up with them, including appropriate methods for asking questions, and how you will be providing your interpretation of the results (follow-up appointment, MyChart message, phone call, etc.)
- When it comes to your documentation, be sure to consider that the patient will easily be able to read what you have documented. Remember the “Cardinal Rules for Documentation to Mitigate Risk” when writing your progress notes and avoid unnecessary commentary, such as settling disputes or casting blame on other providers.
- In some cases, patients may prefer to receive their results from their provider. It is their option to refrain from reviewing results in MyChart until they have had an opportunity to discuss them with you.
- Consider if you have documentation templates that include contact information not appropriate for the patient. If so, please remove that information from your template. Help with this can be obtained through our Epic support and Technical Education staff, if needed.

# Premier Health Recognized For Diversity Work



Premier Health has been recognized as a Top Three Diversity Organization by the Healthcare Diversity Council (HDC), an initiative of the National Diversity Council (NDC), for its exemplary diversity initiatives and efforts in paving the way for equitable health care delivery.

## Organizations considered for this honor had to meet the following criteria:

- Creates or spearheads innovative diversity initiatives that establish and foster a more inclusive and equitable work environment
- Actively participates and/or organizes programs that benefit and involve the community
- Staff retain a commendable reputation with partners, patients, and the community

- Exhibits and demonstrates a commitment to the highest ethical standards, integrity, and professional excellence
- Proven commitment to the recruitment, training, development, and retention of individuals from all populations
- A record of contributions and accomplishments in the health care industry

Premier Health will be recognized at the third annual National Healthcare DEI Conference held in Pittsburgh this July along with GuideWell and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health. Adrian Taylor, director of diversity for Premier Health, is a featured speaker and moderator at the conference.

## Provider Praise



Premier Health patients submit thousands of comments each year acknowledging providers across our health system for delivering excellent care. Here is a random sampling of appreciation received in recent months.

My child has been a patient here for a few years now. I trust the office and **Dr. Mark Casdorff** completely. They are always courteous, kind, understanding, and listen to any and all issues. They also care about our family as a whole – not just my son, who is a patient. Mental health problems are hard, especially in children. Dr. Casdorff and his office make life easier for my son and my family. I would, and have, recommended them to everyone possible.

**Dr. Michelle DeGroat** – Very informative and friendly.

Great customer service and communication. I saw **Dr. David Heidrich** as a new patient, and he took the time to discuss a medical concern I had and developed a

strategy to deal with it in the appointment. He was very knowledgeable and he took time to explain the plan to me.

**Dr. Paul Krebs** and his assistant always respond. They do what they say in a timely manner. Dr. Krebs listens and is concerned about his patients' health and well-being.

**Dr. Derrick Porter** took the time to explain my EKG results and answer my questions.

**Ann Smith, FNP** – Professional and reassuring.

So appreciative of **Dr. Frank Von Maluski** and his staff to be able to fit me into their busy schedule when I'm sick. Dr. Von Maluski is the best!



# Provider Radio Interviews; Hospital Charitable Giving; Employee Garden Ribbon Cutting



## Atrium Medical Center

District leaders from Middletown City Schools took a tour of Atrium Medical Center and then had a Q&A discussion with department managers regarding career opportunities available to current students and future graduates. Middletown City Schools has developed the Ready Now-Passport to Tomorrow certificate for students in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Serving Middletown, Monroe and Trenton. The collaboration between business and

education is designed to help shape the future workforce of tomorrow in this region.

Guests of Atrium Medical Center Foundation's fifth triennial gala, Joie de Vivre: An Evening to Celebrate Life's Joyful Movements, enjoyed a festive evening with cocktails, dinner, dancing, silent auction, raffle, and some fun surprises. The gala, which was originally scheduled for 2020, honored Physician Hero, Raymond Kiefhaber, MD, and two Community Heroes, Dr. Bruce and

Neila Barnes. Proceeds from the gala, silent auction, and raffle helped Atrium Foundation's campaign, Joy of Movement, in purchasing new orthopedic and spine equipment and technology.

Atrium's Level III Trauma Program, in partnership with Warren County Safe Communities Coalition, launched this year's annual Click it or Ticket campaign promoting seatbelt awareness ahead of the busy summer driving season. The Click It or Ticket event held at Warren County Career Center checked if student drivers were wearing restraints at dismissal time.

Atrium employees volunteered at the Middle Olympics, an event for special needs students in Middletown City Schools. With funding from Atrium's Foundation, the hospital provided treats to all students and staff.

Save the date of Saturday, Sept. 17, for the American Heart Association's Butler/Warren County Heart Walk. The walk begins at 10 a.m. at Atrium Family YMCA and continues along Atrium's Turner Trail.





SYSTEM NEWS (continued)

Atrium is recruiting teams to fundraise and participate in the event. The website to register a team is live at <https://tinyurl.com/yf4699c3>. The event's fundraising goal is \$55,000.

In other community relations activities: Atrium President Keith Bricking, MD, welcomed attendees to the West Chester-Liberty Chamber Alliance's annual Everest Awards as part of the hospital's sponsorship of the event that honors business leaders from West Chester to Dayton; Atrium's stroke program manager presented to a group of AK Steel retirees on the topic of reducing stroke risk factors; Atrium sponsored Hospice Care of Middletown's 12th Annual Mother's Day 5K Run/Walk, with more than 500 people participating in the event; Atrium sponsored Middletown Women's Wine and Chocolate Walk, which brought hundreds to the city's downtown business corridor; and the hospital sponsored and representatives attended the Middletown Historical Society's annual fundraiser and awards dinner.

**Miami Valley Hospital Campuses**

Miami Valley Hospital's trauma program celebrated 30 years this month. As such and after a three-year hiatus, the team hosted the annual Trauma and Critical Care Update at Sinclair Community College. This event provides current information on the challenges health care professionals face when caring for critically ill or injured patients.

The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center of Dayton at Miami Valley Hospital earned a Level 4 accreditation from the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC).

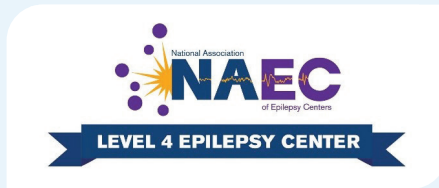
As part of the Clinical Neurosciences Institute, it is the region's only adult, Level 4 epilepsy center, signifying the highest level of epileptic care available.

Premier Health recently received the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area Pinnacle Award, which recognizes the efforts and achievements of Premier Health's recent workplace giving campaign. The award celebrates excellence

in performance for organizations based on several criteria, including total dollars raised, employee participation, leadership donations, and overall engagement.

Local McDonald's franchisees donated to the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation more than 80 meals for nurses in the Berry Women's Center for Nurses Week and GFR Holdings, LLC provided free breakfast meals. GFR Holdings is a local franchisee with 18 McDonald's restaurants in the Dayton area.

Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton opened the Employee Garden and Walking Trail at Miami Valley Hospital North. A





ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the second garden to open in the Trail of the Good Samaritan project. It features patio tables and chairs, seat walls, bronze artwork, Jesus and the Children and iron lampposts that were displayed at Good Samaritan Hospital. This garden provides employees a space to relax, reflect, and find peace, comfort, and healing in the beauty of nature. It is located outside of the inpatient entrance at the North Campus.

Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton Board of Trustees voted at their May meeting to distribute \$20,771 to replace two ultrasound imaging tables at Miami Valley

Hospital North. The ultrasound imaging tables are used by echo, vascular, breast, general, and IR procedure patients.

The Wallace Foundation provided Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton with a \$20,000 gift to support the children's area in the Samaritan Clinic for Women and Families. This clinic provides primary



care, women's care, and pediatric services for women and families experiencing homelessness.

Miami Valley Hospital Foundation was gifted \$10,000 to support the hospital's Regional Burn Center. Roger Poeppelmeier made the donation after spending 28 days in the Miami Valley Hospital Burn Unit in 1991. On May 26, Roger met with Mike Uhl, president of Miami Valley Hospital, as well as nurses from the Burn Unit and hospital Foundation for a check presentation.

Banners were designed to be sent to hospitals in Buffalo, New York, after the recent mass shooting incident. Employees and providers signed the banners to show support for the New York health care teams.

Emergency and trauma center physicians came together to recognize exceptional staff members from Miami Valley Hospital, Miami Valley Hospital South, Miami Valley Hospital North, Austin Boulevard Emergency Center, and the Jamestown Emergency Center at the annual Jana Matthews Awards of Excellence. Jana Matthews was a dedicated hospital volunteer, and the first volunteer in the emergency and trauma center. In Jana's honor, staff members of the emergency and trauma center are recognized each year for their outstanding service. These awards are made possible through an endowment established by Jana's husband, Jack.

Representatives from Premier Health met with Wright State University athletic department leaders to present the annual partnership check and congratulate the coaches on successful basketball seasons.

*Continued on next page*





### Upper Valley Medical Center

The UVMC Parent Board provided support from its Community Benefit Fund to six food insufficiency organizations in Miami County in May. UVMC leadership visited and hand-delivered the donation checks to each of the organizations.



**Dr. Scott Kanagy** was featured on Troy and Piqua radio interviews in May discussing UVMC's spring Leapfrog A grade plus other hospital

accolades and advancements. UVMC's Leapfrog grade A also was featured in a Piqua Chamber of Commerce eblast which went out to all chamber members and affiliates on May 26.

UVMC's annual Bill and Ruth McGraw Cancer Awareness Symposium was held May 16 at the Piqua Plaza. The event, hosted by the UVMC Foundation, featured Dave Drapecky, former major league pitcher, award-winning author and cancer survivor.

In other community activities, UVMC supported the Piqua Chamber of Commerce annual Top 100 Ceremony honoring local students held May 2 at Alexander Stadium, Edison State Community College's "Bet on the Future" fundraiser held May 4 at the college, the Miami County annual Excellence in Education Awards Dinner held May 11 at the Learning Place in Piqua, Main Street Piqua's annual Farmers Market launch May 26 in downtown Piqua, and Tipp City Relay for Life 5K and Field Day events held May 19-27 on the Tipp Intermediary School campus.

### Premier Physician Network

PCR swabbing is now available in PPN primary care offices. Patients who need a COVID-19 test because they have symptoms or suspect they have been

exposed to COVID-19 can now call their PPN primary care provider's office for help. PPN primary care providers will collect samples for PCR testing, the gold standard for accuracy in diagnosing COVID-19. We will help patients get information they can trust and advise them on next steps for care if needed. Patients who need a COVID-19 test to travel can visit [compunetlab.com](http://compunetlab.com).

Now is the best time to schedule kids' annual wellness visits and basic sports physicals with PPN providers. Our marketing team is emailing reminders to PPN patients to make these important summer appointments.

Another good reason to schedule an annual wellness visit for your child is the recent recommendation from the U.S. Preventive Task Force to screen all children ages 8 to 18 for anxiety. At a time when mental health issues among children are escalating, the goal is to identify and treat children with anxiety before symptoms worsen. "Typically, we ask age-appropriate screening questions during an annual well-child exam," says Kevin Baker, FNP, Premier Health Rheumatology. "If there's an acute concern, we ask more questions and take appropriate steps to help the child and make referrals as needed."