

Premier Pulse

News and Information for Premier Health Physicians
and Advanced Practice Providers

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2023



United We Are Better

By Scott Kanagy, DO, chief medical officer, Atrium
Medical Center & Miami Valley Hospital South



I have been reflecting on my six years as a Premier Health employee and the many experiences and roles I have had the honor and pleasure of serving in. One of the most meaningful experiences is my realization I have been the chief medical

officer at four of our five hospitals at some point during my time with the health system. Reflecting on this has brought about clarity for me regarding Premier Health and who we are. While every Premier hospital, in my experience, has a slightly different culture and expertise it brings to the communities it serves, every hospital has a similar core set of goals that is Premier. During my time at all Premier hospitals, I have worked with individuals on all levels and witnessed the pride so many take in being “Premier Proud” and fulfilling our goals. There are differences in each hospital while, at the same time, there is a familiar underlying theme that highlights our mission and vision. Together and united, we are better.

As we explore the evolving world of medicine, we find ourselves in a position where we must embrace our differences and the expertise that each hospital brings to the communities they serve and, simultaneously, realize we are better united. By embracing this concept, we can accomplish much more while maintaining our individual identities. Many strengths exist within us and, if fully and effectively embraced, will allow us to better serve our communities. While in the chief medical officer role, I have witnessed the many strengths of each hospital and have seen how teamwork between multiple hospitals within our system has and can bring about better care and outcomes.

We are now a unified medical staff. Through this unification, we have strengthened Premier. Now we need to grow these bonds even more. We need to consider daily how we can best partner with every hospital, every provider, and individual within Premier to “Inspire Better Health.”



Digital Minute: Virtual Nursing

By Walter Reiling, MD, system chief medical information officer, Premier Health; and Mandy Via, senior product manager of digital health, Premier Health



In late May, Premier Health launched an exciting new pilot for Virtual Nursing. As health care leaders across the nation work to redesign care delivery models, we began our journey by leveraging current telehealth technology in an agile and innovative team. Virtual nursing is now deployed across our system at three

hospitals and five nursing units.

In application, a virtual nurse will join the patient through a secure videoconferencing platform on a telehealth tablet cart to complete portions of the admission and discharge process. This frees up the bedside nurse's time to care for other patients, with the virtual nurse providing focused admission and discharge communications. Patients have shared that they like having the virtual nurse encounter as it speeds up their hospital stay without interruptions. Bedside nurses also share that they know their patients are getting virtually connected with another Premier nurse, allowing the bedside nurse additional time to see other patients. The excitement of virtual nursing is spreading as we consider the possibilities that will support our staff and patients.

Digital Stethoscopes

As technology continues to evolve and expand, Premier Health recently

implemented digital stethoscopes across our emergency departments and to TeleSNF sites. Layering this technology onto current telehealth platforms and programs, we are augmenting care delivery to provide a more robust telehealth experience. The digital stethoscope has 40x amplification and noise cancellation, ideal for enhanced sounds. The bedside clinician can also send a livestream link to the remote provider to share real-time auscultation of sounds. The livestreaming allows the provider to direct the bedside clinician to auscultation points if needed while gaining enhanced assessment for the patient.

Post-PHE Update

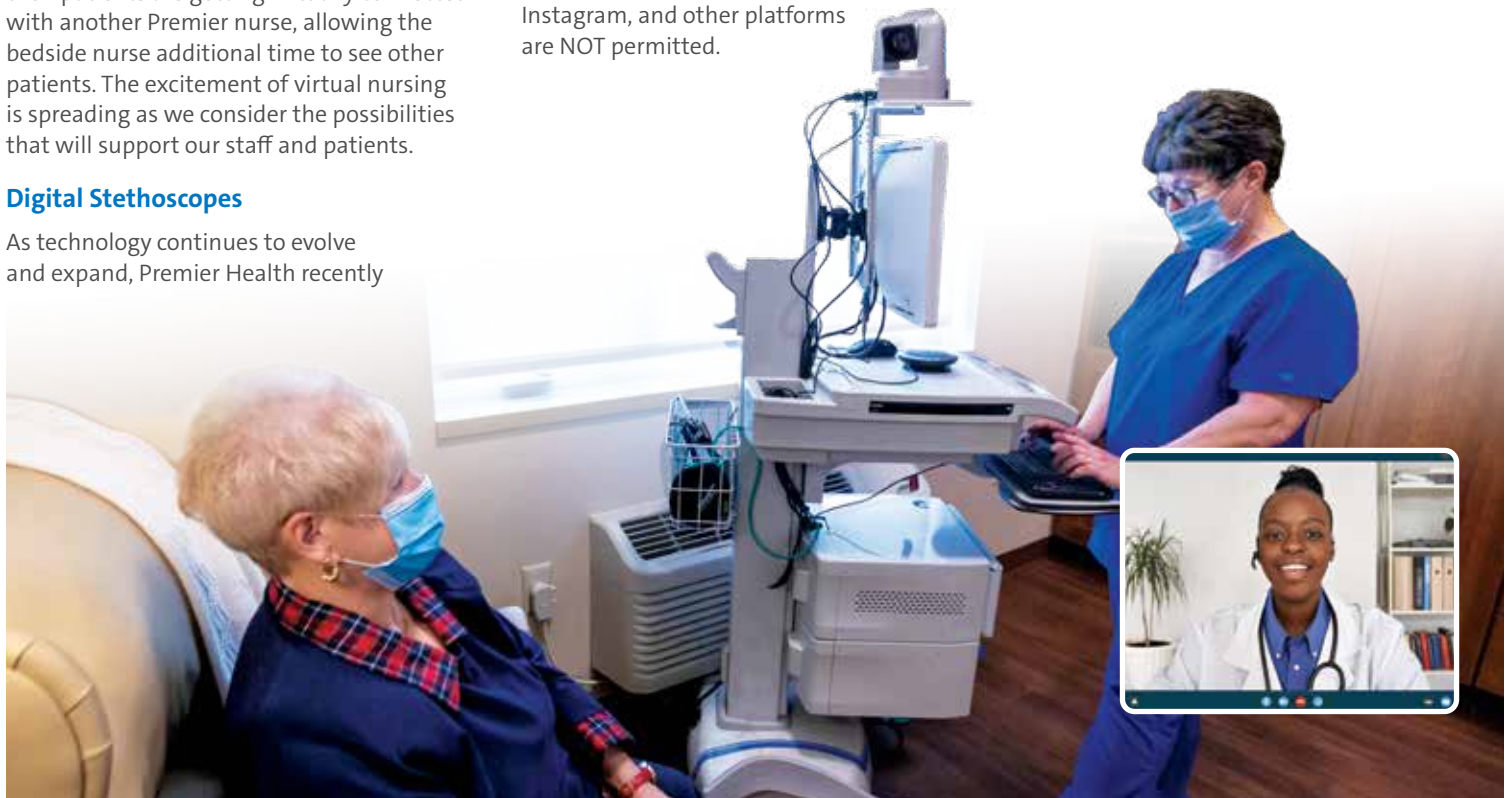
The Public Health Emergency (PHE) stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic ended on May 11, 2023, and brought the return of requirements to which providers must adhere. One key component is that only HIPAA-compliant platforms are to be utilized for telehealth. Premier offers Vidyo and MyChart platforms to meet this requirement. Our PPN providers can continue using these platforms for patient visits as they have been for the last couple of years. Facetime, Google Duo, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, Thread, Twitter, Instagram, and other platforms are NOT permitted.

The telehealth landscape continues to shift as we watch payer behaviors and monitor CMS. Even though the PHE ended, certain flexibilities were extended through December 31, 2024.

Temporary Medicare changes through December 31, 2024 are as follows:

- FQHCs and RHCs can serve as distant site providers for non-behavioral/mental telehealth services
- Medicare patients can receive telehealth services in their home
- There are no geographic restrictions for originating site for non-behavioral/mental telehealth services
- Some non-behavioral/mental telehealth services can be delivered using audio-only communication platforms
- An in-person visit within six months of an initial behavioral/mental telehealth service and annually thereafter is not required
- Telehealth services can be provided by all eligible Medicare providers

Source: <https://telehealth.hhs.gov/providers/telehealth-policy/policy-changes-after-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency>



U.S. News & World Report: Miami Valley Hospital Again Best in Dayton



Miami Valley Hospital placed ninth among all Ohio hospitals in the latest annual rankings released earlier this month by U.S. News & World Report. The hospital, which is part of Premier Health, again had the best performance among all hospitals in the Dayton region.

The distinction includes Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood and Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville.

The hospital was ranked “high-performing” in 10 areas of care: heart failure; heart attack; colon cancer surgery; hip replacement; knee

replacement; diabetes; prostate cancer surgery; leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; maternity care (uncomplicated pregnancy); and stroke.

In addition, Premier Health’s Atrium Medical Center received a “high-performing” designation for heart attack and stroke, while Upper Valley Medical Center received a “high-performing” designation for maternity care (uncomplicated pregnancy).

To see the full list of rankings, go to www.usnews.com

CompuNet Clinical Laboratories Introduces ‘Schedule My Labs’

CompuNet Clinical Laboratories is excited to share the launch of Schedule My Labs, offering a customized and seamless appointment booking experience at its more than 30 patient service center locations.

Key Features

- **Customizability:** Tailor appointments to your needs for a smoother booking process
- **Seamless Integration:** Schedule My Labs complements My Labs Now Results Portal for a cohesive experience
- **Improved Sign-In Stations:** Larger kiosk stations are coming soon for better in-person visits
- **Smooth Transition:** Appointments after August 11 in our current platform, Solv, will be moved to Schedule My Labs by Patient Service Center management

Upcoming Changes In Chemistry

Policy Change: *Add-on Testing for HCG and PCT*

Due to the sensitivity of our Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) and Procalcitonin (PCT) assays performed in the CompuNet Chemistry lab, testing can no longer be added on to specimens that have been previously tested. When submitting a new order in Epic, it will require a new specimen collection. This policy change went into effect on July 26, 2023.

Methodology Change: *Tumor Markers*
CompuNet will be switching chemistry instrumentation and methodology for

tumor marker testing later this fall. In general, tumor marker values from different assay methods and instruments are not interchangeable due to differences in calibration, antibody specificity, and assay design. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that clinicians re-establish baseline tumor marker levels on the new method for **AFP, CEA, CA 125, CA 15-3 and CA 19-9**. Prior to the methodology change, the laboratory will have a re-baseline period during which we will automatically perform and report results from both instrument platforms to help clinicians evaluate the differences between the methods. The re-baseline will be at no additional charge to the patient.



Fidelity Health Care Social Services

By Heather Cary, MSW, LISW-S, social work supervisor, Fidelity Health Care

Fidelity Health Care has a team of Ohio licensed social workers with extensive experience to help patients and families navigate their health care journeys. Patients must be active in Fidelity Health Care services with skilled nursing or physical therapy to receive a social work consult. Our social workers can assist in the following:

- Provide psychosocial assessment and ongoing intervention to restore patients to their optimum level of social and health functioning. This includes assisting patients and their families to understand, accept, and follow medical recommendations.

- Provide counseling and intervention to complex psychiatric patients and assist them in understanding, accepting, and following a treatment regimen.
- Direct patients toward utilization of family and community resources. This may be accomplished by assessing and referring the patient to resources or acting as a patient advocate in working with other health and welfare agencies.
- Assist patients and their families with personal and environmental difficulties which predispose them toward illness or interfere with achieving maximum level of functioning. These range from counseling members of the patient's family to assisting patients with admission to a nursing home.
- Consult with the physician and other members of the health care team to assist them in understanding significant social, emotional, and environmental factors related to the patient's health problems.
- Assist in the development and revision of the physician's plan of treatment.



Samaritan Behavioral Health Concludes Operations On OneFifteen Campus

By Beth Esposito, president, Samaritan Behavioral Health, Inc.



As part of an innovative collaboration to help people living with opioid addiction, OneFifteen entered the Dayton market in 2019. Premier Health and other community partners made a multi-year commitment to support the start-up of the nonprofit organization and its campus in Dayton's Carillon neighborhood, with Samaritan Behavioral Health Inc. (SBHI) serving as OneFifteen's operating partner and providing clinical care, including behavioral health services. That community support, in turn, enabled OneFifteen to fund the increased operations at SBHI.

Having reached the next phase, Premier Health and SBHI have mutually agreed with OneFifteen that SBHI will wind down operations on the OneFifteen campus. Beginning next year, OneFifteen will operate the campus as an independent provider. While SBHI will no longer serve as OneFifteen's operating partner, it will continue to offer outpatient services in the community. As a result:

- **OneFifteen Living** - The 58-bed low-intensity residential unit, which was the first of its kind in Ohio, will remain open and operated in partnership with Recovery Innovations International.
- **OneFifteen/SBHI Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)** - The unit will continue to operate 24/7 until September 22, 2023, at which time the hours will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. On December 1, 2023, the CSU will close temporarily. OneFifteen will begin similar operations in 2024.
- **OneFifteen/SBHI Inpatient Residential** - The inpatient residential services will temporarily close on September 23, 2023, and new patients will no longer be accepted as of August 25, 2023. OneFifteen will begin operations in 2024. During the interim, prospective patients will be referred to other residential providers in the community.
- **Outpatient Services** - SBHI will continue to operate outpatient services at OneFifteen's campus until December 31, 2023. In January, SBHI will move its outpatient services to 601 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd. in Dayton. OneFifteen will begin its own outpatient operations in 2024.
- **Recovery and Affordable Housing** - OneFifteen will continue to develop recovery and affordable housing options in the Carillon neighborhood in partnership with the City of Dayton and the Carillon Civic Council.



Premier Health and SBHI will continue to provide quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health and substance use disorder services to the community, including in areas near the OneFifteen campus. If you have a patient in need of these services, please contact **(937) 734-4310** or **(937) 734-4311**.

In addition, OneFifteen is committed to this community and has indicated that it plans to resume providing residential, crisis stabilization, and outpatient services on its campus in 2024.

As part of this transition, SBHI and Premier Health are evaluating the placement of affected employees in similar positions elsewhere within SBHI or the health system. Staff who provided services in OneFifteen's Outpatient Clinic will be able to continue in those roles at SBHI.

Premier Health also will remain an engaged behavioral health community partner in many ways. The health system is active on the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association's Behavioral Health Task Force and participates in the Ohio Hospital Association's Behavioral Health Council. SBHI, which has served the community for 55 years and is certified in both behavioral health and addiction services, also supports seven local school districts by providing mental health treatment and prevention services.

Threads of Strength, Summer Events, Dayton Air Show

Atrium Medical Center

Atrium Medical Center and Hilltop Obstetrics and Gynecology have been honored by Cincy Magazine in the publication's 2023 Family Choice Awards. The practice was named Best OB/GYN group; Charissa Newton, CNM, was named Best Midwife; and Atrium's Family Birth Center received Best Place to Have a Baby recognition.

Atrium honored several Middletown firefighters and EMS professionals for helping to deliver premature twins in the field. Rich Morrett, emergency medical services director, Atrium, honored the team of Middletown firefighters after they helped a woman successfully deliver the babies. Cincinnati television and print media covered the story.

Atrium showcased its emergency and trauma services at National Night Out events in Middletown, Franklin, Lebanon, and Carlisle. These popular community events, which the local police department organizes to build community relationships, draw thousands of residents each year. Atrium's Level III Trauma Center distributed information at each event.



Save the date for Saturday, Sept. 9, for the American Heart Association's Butler/Warren County Heart Walk presented by Atrium Medical Center. The walk will take place along Atrium's Turner Trail and feature a health expo. Atrium is recruiting teams to fundraise and participate in the event. Join a team to participate.



To register scan this QR code or go to: www.Heart.org/ButlerWarrenCountyWalk.



In other community relations activities: Atrium sponsored the City of Middletown's Fourth of July concert and fireworks and the Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival in Middletown; the hospital's employee engagement committee hosted a luau attended by 350 employees, offering fun games, free snacks, and a chance to win prizes; Atrium's Department of Public Safety participated in the City of Franklin's Wettest Parade in Ohio during the Fourth of July weekend; Atrium participated in the business expo organized by the West Chester-Liberty Chamber Alliance; and a Community Blood Center blood drive at Atrium collected 45 donations to meet 125 percent of its goal.

Miami Valley Hospital Campuses

Premier Health Hospital Foundations' annual report, *Because of You: Inspiring Better Health*, was distributed to nearly 6,000 donors and community supporters in July. The 32-page annual report highlights 2022 initiatives and programs

funded by the health system's four hospital Foundations.

Miami Valley Hospital Foundation hosted its 34th Annual Valley Classic golf tournament at NCR Country Club in Kettering. The tournament raises funds for diabetes education through the Bull Family Diabetes Center, and new this year, the tournament included a Drone Golf Ball Drop.

The Premier Health Hospital Foundations welcomed world-renowned designer Shravan Kummur to Miami Valley Hospital South as part of preparations for the system-wide Threads of Strength oncology fashion show. Kummur visited Dayton from India, where he provided fittings for more than 20 models participating in the fashion show on Nov. 17 at the Dayton Arcade. Proceeds from Threads of Strength will directly support cancer and wellness care across Premier Health through the continuance of integrative therapies, new nutritional clinics, and inspirational cancer care boutiques.

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Premier Health was a sponsor of the CenterPoint Energy Dayton Air Show. CareFlight Air and Mobile Services was the official medical provider for this event. Employees from Miami Valley Hospital, Miami Valley Hospital North, and System Support represented Premier Health by walking in the Air Show parade. Joseph Allen, MD, represented the system on the grandstand, welcoming the grand marshal for the parade.

Mike Riordan continued his community leader updates with State Representative Tom Young, Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman, Dayton Mayor Jeff Mims and Dayton City Manager Shelley Dickstein.



Upper Valley Medical Center

The UVMC trauma team recognized four Piqua Fire Department first responders in July for exceptional care of a trauma patient. The recognition, which stemmed from outstanding efforts that resulted in the successful life-saving field resuscitation of a cardiac arrest patient this past spring, included the presentation of an Excellence in Trauma Care certificate, challenge coin, and pin in recognition of

outstanding actions above and beyond normal duties to assist the UVMC trauma team.

UVMC recently hosted the Troy Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Leadership Troy class for a program focused on local health care. Trish Wackler, chief nursing and operating officer, UVMC, presented an overview of UVMC services, and Teri Gulker, nursing director, UVMC, provided a tour featuring several UVMC departments. Leadership Troy is a 10-month educational program for business leaders who serve the Troy community. Each month a day-long session is dedicated to a specific topic in Troy and/or Miami County.

Stephen Liptak, PsyD, a clinical psychologist with Upper Valley Outpatient Behavioral Health, was interviewed on Troy and Piqua radio stations on July 31, highlighting programs focused on helping families prepare for children returning to school.

The Troy Police Department recently upgraded its wellness/fitness facility through a UVMC Community Benefits Fund grant awarded by the UVMC parent board of directors. The upgrade included

repairs to the wellness/fitness and new workout equipment to replace aged and damaged units. In addition, Lincoln Community Center in Troy is adding a curve treadmill and curve trainer to expand their rehabilitation and training programs, and TCN Behavioral Health Services received funding for a Community Care Liaison and Hope House recovery residence – also through grants from the UVMC Community Benefits Fund awarded by the UVMC parent board of directors.

In other community engagement, UVMC sponsored the West Milton Fourth of July Parade and Celebration on July 4, the annual Bob Mikolajewski Memorial Piqua Optimist 5k Run/Walk in downtown Piqua on July 15, the Edison Community College Drive for Scholarships on July 24, and the RT Industries Silent Auction event July 24 to Aug. 5.

Premier Physician Network

Premier Health and Premier Orthopedics held a week-long orthopedic medicine externship and one-day workshop for area high school and college students from Monday, July 17, to Friday, July 21. The program launched in 2021 to introduce students to the medical field at an early age. The program aims to address the disparity in gender and race within orthopedics by encouraging female and minority students to explore the possibilities of a career in the field. During the externship, students gain hands-on experience, including surgery instrument demonstrations; lab work; and educational talks from orthopedic surgeons, spine

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surgeons, and sports medicine doctors. Please welcome those who attended PPN's New Physician and APP Orientation on Wednesday, July 12, 2023: (L-R) Lisa Staley, CNP, Trotwood Physician Center; Leticia DeBrill-Richardson, CNP, Clinical Neuroscience Institute; Jessica Davis, FNP, Premier Orthopedic Spine Center; Amy Whitaker, DO, Associated Specialists of Internal Medicine; Joshua Imwalle, PA, Premier Weight Loss Solutions; and Nicole

Spencer, CNP, Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates.

After practicing for years as a primary care physician at several PPN practices, Ratna Palakodeti, MD, is now an emeritus assistant clinical professor at Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine, where he shares his years of primary care knowledge and experience. It was announced at the June 2023 Wright State University Family Medicine

Residency Program graduation that Dr. Palakodeti was awarded both the Dean's Voluntary Faculty Award for Teaching and was voted the winner of the Residents' Best Teacher Award! It is an unusual honor to bestow both awards to someone in the same year. Congratulations to Dr. Palakodeti!



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.

Amy Schimke, MD: Very friendly and knowledgeable staff. The cleanliness of the room was great. The doctor's assistant was awesome as well. Short waiting room time to see the doctor is great. Kudos to all. Thank you.

Sara Wilson-Rector, APRN: Excellent medical team, great at asking questions about my family medical history. I feel very lucky to have landed such a team. Sarah Wilson is an excellent caretaker with a great attitude. Lucky to have her.

Seth Kettel, MD, takes the time to listen and thoroughly explain answers to my questions.

Chandan Gupta, MD, is awesome. Is always kind, compassionate and ready to listen. She orders the tests that she feels are necessary and always has your best interest at heart, as does the staff.

Very satisfied with **Matthew Lawless, MD,** and the staff.

Jeffery Adam, MD, Is the kind of doctor all doctors should be. All around the best in doctor personality!