

Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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Why Should We Have Better Communication?

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



Imagine you or a loved one is in the hospital not feeling well, scared, and looking for those who care for you to provide confidence that you are getting the best care. In comes a physician who examines you, reviews your results, and explains the next steps in your treatment process. You are feeling better about your treatment plan when another provider or

nurse comes in to see you. You share with them the others provider's thoughts and plans. Then, the patient hears, "I had no idea that was the plan." Your confidence in the care you are receiving rapidly deteriorates and fear sets in. You start to ask yourself if those who are caring for you are talking to each other. Do they know what they are doing? Are you safe and getting the best care? These are legitimate questions. This may instill in patients fear and lack of confidence in our ability to care for them as health care providers.

Now, imagine a provider who takes time to send a secure chat to another provider or nurse letting them know their plan for the patient's care plan. Imagine a provider who takes the time to read other providers' or nurses' notes prior to going into a patient's room.

I realize we are all very busy and have many conflicting responsibilities in our daily routines. Imagine the anxiety we could reduce and the improvement in patient experience we could achieve by taking a few extra minutes out of our day to collaborate and communicate with the entire treatment team.

We all need to take the time to be more aware of how we can better communicate with each other every day. This will bring about a safer environment, better care and outcomes for patients, and improved patient experience. We owe this to those who have placed their lives in our trust.



New Comprehensive Spine Care Program

By Jason Merritt, vice president, Premier Physician Network & Neuroscience Service Line



Premier Physician Network is meeting the growing needs of spine patients in the Miami Valley with the creation of a new comprehensive spine care program, Premier Health Spine. The multidisciplinary spine program is co-chaired by neurosurgeon Daniel Gaudin, MD, Ph.D., and orthopedic spine surgeon Norah Foster, MD.

Premier Health Spine has several spine specialists who are able to meet the needs of our community, whether it is a complex spine patient or a patient looking for a quick return to everyday life thanks to a minimally invasive approach.

“We have recruited several fellowship-trained specialists to our team,” said Dr. Gaudin. “This provides Premier Health Spine the ability to provide high-quality service to all aspects of spine care.”

Premier Health Spine is accomplishing this by bringing the PPN resources and talents of neurosurgery, orthopedic spine surgery,

physiatry, and pain management into a collaborative working group. PPN has streamlined its system to allow for efficient triage of new referrals, improved navigation between subspecialists, cooperation on quality improvement, and surgical volume growth for Premier Health.

“Our goal in designing the Premier Health Spine model is based on feedback from referring providers and patients,” said Dr. Foster. “We are responding to our patients who are looking for an efficient pathway to high quality spine care.”

For providers currently using EPIC, referrals for patients with back and neck pain or other spine diagnoses can be sent directly to Premier Health Spine. Providers not currently on EPIC can fax referrals to **(937) 208-5143**. You may request a specific provider, or the triage referral team will follow the physician developed protocol for scheduling the patient with the most appropriate or most readily available provider.

'It Is Always Darkest Just Before Dawn'

By Roberto Colon, MD, system vice president of quality and safety, Premier Health;
associate chief medical officer, Miami Valley Hospital



Without a doubt, everyone is aware that we are in the most serious phase of this pandemic to date. Cases continue to rise everywhere, and hospitalizations for COVID are higher in Ohio than at any point this year. The driving force behind the rise continues to be social gatherings, even small ones, at moments where our protective measures are not

being used properly.

We are heading into a very uncertain stretch of months as the current projections will have cases continue to rise until the latter part of December before slowing. On an almost daily basis, Ohio and many other parts of the United States are reaching daily records for new cases. This highlights the importance of doing what we can to help slow this down: wear your mask, maintain social distancing, and avoid gatherings even with friends. I know how difficult these steps can be for many of us with the holidays looming, but these strategies are currently the best weapons we have to slow down this virus and avoid overwhelming health care systems.

But our future is not all bleak. There are rays of hope just around the corner. Earlier this month, one of two monoclonal antibodies received Emergency Authorization for Use from the Food & Drug Administration. A second trial is also expected to receive approval in the near future. These therapies have been part of experimental trials and have offered some of the most convincing evidence for effectiveness in treating patients BEFORE they become severely ill. In addition, we are expecting that at least one vaccine will receive FDA approval soon and be available to start distribution before the end of the year. These two modalities could have the most impact in the outcomes of patients and long-term trajectory of this pandemic. Even when both of these are available, the need for masks, social distancing, and avoidance of gatherings will likely continue through next year. This is not a time to give in but rather to tighten up!

We have to be mindful! We have to be resilient! We have to be supportive of one another! We have to be resourceful! We have to be careful! We can and WILL get through this, but is it going to take all of us, together!

COVID-19 Testing Sites Now Open to All Patients Physician's Order Required at All Sites



Premier Health and CompuNet Clinical Laboratories are now offering testing to all patients with a physician's order at 11 locations throughout the region.

Appointments are required at all locations except for the OnMain site at 1229 S. Main St. in Dayton. Testing is available for individuals who have symptoms of either COVID-19 or the flu, or who are preparing for a surgery or procedure and need a COVID-19 test prior to the procedure. (In such cases, screenings should take place three to four days prior to the surgery or procedure.)



Appointments can be scheduled at **PremierHealth.com/covidtesting** at one of the following sites:

- Atrium Medical Center, Middletown (drive-through location): 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- Premier Health Urgent Care, Miamisburg: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- Premier Health Urgent Care, Vandalia: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- Upper Valley Medical Center, Troy (drive-through location): 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- CompuNet, 11135 Montgomery Road, Suite 200, Montgomery: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
- CompuNet, 62 N. Breiel Blvd., Middletown: 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

- CompuNet, 2355 Derr Road, Springfield: 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday
- CompuNet, 1850 W. Main St., Troy: 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.)
- CompuNet, 7743 Tylersville Road, Suite E, West Chester: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
- CompuNet, 2400 Lakeview Drive, Suite 110, Beavercreek: 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday

Appointments are not required at the following location, but a physician's order is needed:

- OnMain, 1229 S. Main St., Dayton: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.)

Premier Health Launches New Tool to Aid Patients and Emergency Teams



Premier Health has launched a new tool, On My Way, to allow patients to alert an emergency center of their pending arrival and give the emergency team additional opportunity to prepare their arrival.

“If you are in doubt about the severity of your condition, you should always seek immediate care by going to the nearest emergency department or calling 911,” said **Candy Skidmore**, Premier Health’s vice president for emergency and trauma services.

The On My Way tool allows patients to communicate with the emergency department team not only about their impending arrival, but also about their specific medical concerns. This, in turn, helps emergency personnel to be even more prepared for a patient’s arrival.

From Premier Health’s website (PremierHealth.com/ER), a patient seeking emergency care can click the On My Way button, which will

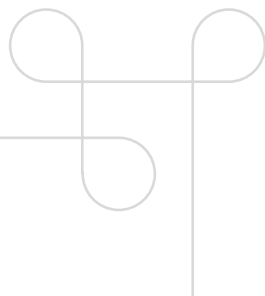
take them to a page featuring maps of all Premier Health emergency centers. Each center’s wait time is also displayed. The patient chooses the nearest emergency center and a brief notification form pops up for the patient to complete and send.

If a person has a MyChart account, he or she may sign into MyChart and click the On My Way button there. By going through their MyChart account, pertinent history will be attached to the notification form sent to the emergency center. Upon arrival, the emergency center will already have check-in information, a list of medications the patient currently takes, and other helpful data from the patient’s MyChart account.

Patients can add themselves to the list of expected emergency patients using Premier Health’s website, their MyChart account, as well as the mobile MyChart app.

While On My Way provides notification that a patient is on the way, it does not hold a spot in line. The order in which emergency patients are seen is based on the severity of their injury or illness.

Premier Health provides advanced emergency services at multiple locations throughout Southwest Ohio, including: Atrium Medical Center (Level 3 trauma center); Miami Valley Hospital (the region’s most experienced Level I trauma center); Miami Valley Hospital North; Miami Valley Hospital South (Level 3 trauma center); Jamestown Emergency Center; Austin Boulevard Emergency Center; and Upper Valley Medical Center.



Cardiothoracic Surgeon Loves Family Time and Scuba Diving



Vincent J. Nardy, DO

What is your clinical specialty?

Cardiothoracic surgery

Where did you go to school?

Lake Erie College of Medicine
Penn State University for undergrad

What brought you to Premier Health?

I wanted to stay within Ohio so I can be close to friends and family and I wanted to be a part of a larger, tertiary care referral health care system.

Why did you choose medicine as a career?

I enjoyed biological sciences and, more importantly, the ability to help people feel better during times of sickness.

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

My patients and wife
College hockey coach at Penn State
All the CT surgeons at Ohio State who trained me
My current partners at Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates

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

I played collegiate hockey at Penn State for two years before focusing on medicine. My coach wrote a book titled "Pragmatic Passion" and wrote a segment that was dedicated to my trials and tribulations related to being a collegiate athlete and my desire to succeed as a doctor.

Where is your hometown?

Suburbs outside of Cleveland, Ohio

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

OH-IO Buckeyes and Penn State
Cleveland Browns and Indians
Pittsburgh Penguins and Columbus Blue Jackets

What is the last book you read?

Bible and "The 5AM Club"

What is your favorite song in your playlist?

Cannot pick just one. I usually have a playlist with country, blues, or reggae/tropical vibes music.

What is your favorite food?

Italian and seafood

What is your favorite hobby?

Spending time with my wife and two kids
Scuba diving

What is your favorite animal, and why?

Sea turtle! I can't think of a better way to spend 100 years of life just floating and swimming along in the tropical oceans. Just a peaceful and graceful animal.

Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

Cayman Island, Turks and Caicos, and the Virgin Islands are my favorite, but basically anywhere in the Caribbean. There is something about the teal ocean water, the soft sand, and island life that is just good for my soul.

Describe something (a thing, person, place, experience, etc.) for which you are especially thankful:

I am extremely thankful for my wife and family. In CT surgery, not everybody will get better and sometimes we have patients who pass away. My wife is amazing at listening and understanding when I have those bad days. She supports my professional/career goals and ambitions and always has since my residency. As a heart surgeon, there are days/nights/weeks/years that have been and will be more challenging than others. For this reason, I am extremely grateful for her support!



Pick a side

iPhone or Android

iPhone

Early bird or night owl

Early bird

Beach bum or mountain hiker?

Beach bum

Dress shoes or tennis shoes?

Tennis shoes

Paperback or e-reader?

e-reader

Coffee or tea?

Both

Cooking or baking?

Cooking

Physician After-Hours Program

Fidelity Health Care offers care to patients who need medical attention after-hours, on weekends, and on holidays. This service is for your patients who are in the comfort of their own homes and need extra support. Patients can speak with a clinician and share their medical questions and concerns outside of normal business hours.

Fidelity's clinicians have direct EPIC documentation at their fingertips to review a patient's last office visit, procedures, medications, and provider recommendations while speaking with the patient. Provider

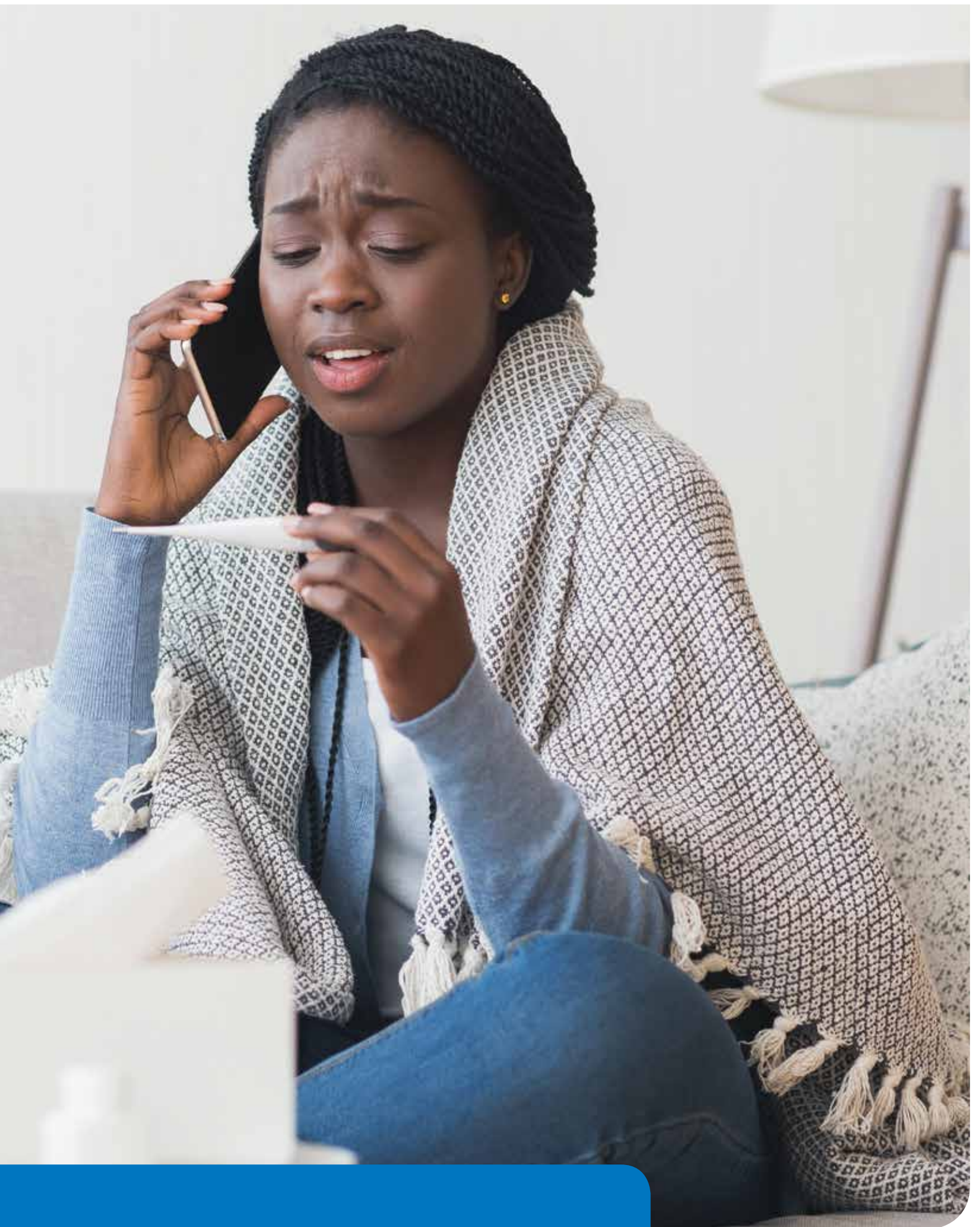
support for the clinician is only an EPIC Haiku secure message away when complex patient needs arise. All documentation is completed within the patient's legal EPIC EMR, allowing providers access to interventions for their patients.

Clinicians respond to patients and caregivers within 30 minutes. Typically, patients' needs are met, resolved, and documented within 20 minutes of calling into the physician after-hours support line. Seven out of 10 patient calls can be safety triaged by the clinician. Patients avoid emergency room encounters 95 percent of the time

based on provider recommendation and life-threatening events that are identified while speaking with the patient. Patients and providers alike share how happy they are with the service. Providers are able to enjoy dinner at home, watch their children play soccer, and enjoy a night out – all while knowing their patients still have clinical expertise close at hand.

This service is available to patients who contact their provider's office after hours. Providers interested in using this on-call service may contact Fidelity Health Care at **(937) 208-6400**.





Miami Valley Hospital to Offer Advanced Aortic Surgery



Cardiac surgeons at Miami Valley Hospital now offer a new procedure aimed at helping patients who suffer from an aortic dissection or aortic aneurysm.

The Frozen Elephant Trunk Total Aortic Arch Replacement is used to repair an aorta damaged from either an aortic dissection, which is a tear in the aorta's wall, or an aortic aneurysm, a bulge or ballooning in the aorta's wall. The aorta runs from the heart through the chest and abdomen, carrying oxygen-rich blood to the body.

The Frozen Elephant Trunk graft is designed to repair aortic damage in one surgery. Previously, repair would sometimes require two separate open chest operations to fix the complicated problem.

"This procedure of replacing the ascending aorta and the ascending arch limits the number of patients who would have to come back for another potential operation or procedure later in life," said Vincent Nardy, DO, of Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates in Dayton. "If they would have to come back for another procedure, we may not have to go through their chest. We may be able to do the procedure through the arteries in their leg. It's a bit safer and less risky."

The Frozen Elephant Trunk Total Aortic Arch Replacement is a procedure that historically involves a graft being folded into the aorta; the graft hangs in a manner similar to an elephant's trunk. The procedure occurs in emergency situations in adults who most often suffer an aortic tear. This rare procedure can also be an elective surgery for patients who have an aortic aneurysm.

This new procedure at Miami Valley Hospital will provide exceptional surgical services to patients close to home, reducing the need to seek care at hospitals in larger cities.

"This procedure could offer a significant benefit to appropriate patients," Dr. Nardy said. "Especially in emergency situations, we would not have to transfer them to another hospital and risk the possibility of delaying or compromising advanced cardiac surgical care."

If a patient is interested in learning more about the Frozen Trunk Aortic Arch Replacement, they can contact Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates at **(937) 208-3220**.

Timelier, Coordinated Care for Patients with Lung Nodules



Lung nodules are abnormal spots that can be found when you get a chest x-ray or a CT scan of the chest for symptoms you are having, or a lung cancer screening.

While the chance is small that a patient has cancer — 95 percent of lung nodules are not cancerous — it's normal for patients to feel worried if they don't know. That

is why it is critical for providers to evaluate the nodules regularly to see if they show signs of cancer.

Premier Health is also the first in Ohio to use new technology that holds promise in fighting lung cancer through the goal of earlier diagnosis and treatment. The Monarch™ Platform enables pulmonary specialists to navigate and search the delicate, distant

branches of the lung and obtain tissue samples from hard-to-reach nodules for biopsy.

The Monarch™ Platform is located at Miami Valley Hospital. It integrates the latest advancements in robotics, software, data science, and endoscopy.

Best Practice for Patient Referral

CT Scan Results

CT scan reveals an incidental lung nodule **8 mm or larger** (greater risk of malignancy)

Patient Referral

Refer the patient to a **pulmonologist for evaluation and next steps.**

Specialist Consult

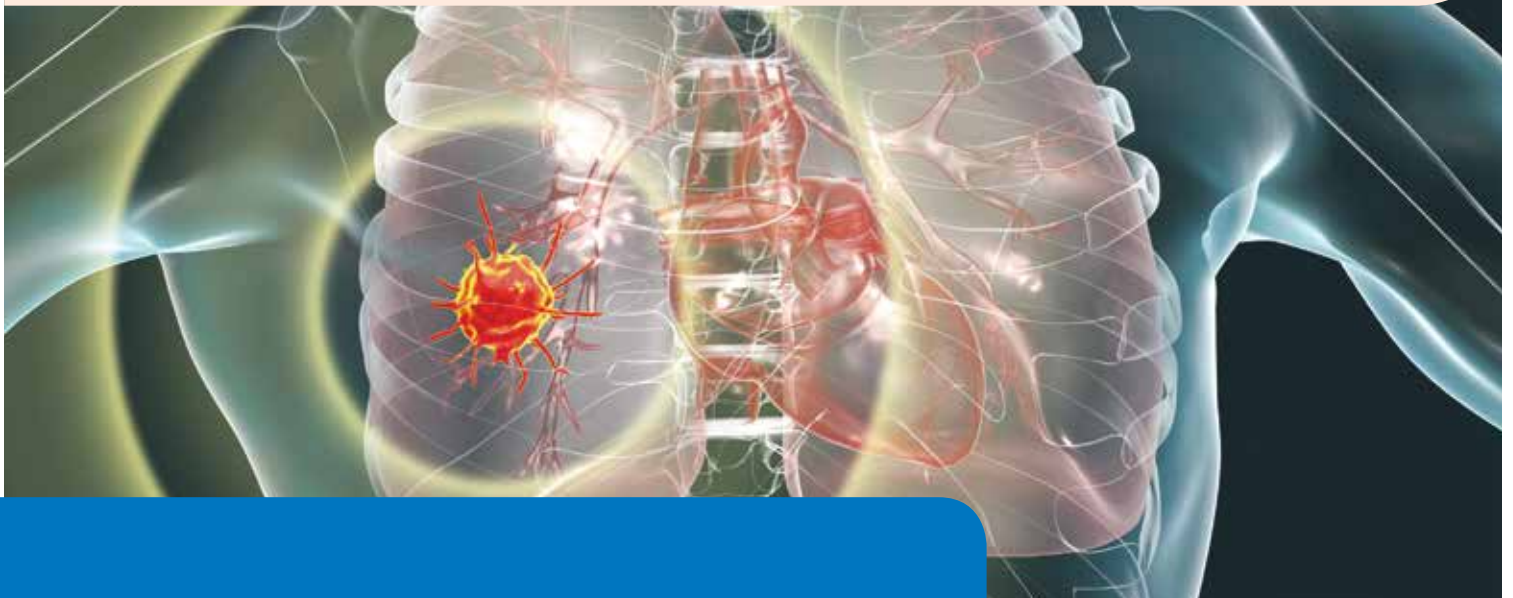
Pulmonologist assesses the CT scan results and the patient's condition to determine the care plan that is:

- Most efficient
- Lowest risk
- Provides answers for the patient as soon as possible

Options include:

- Follow-up imaging with watchful waiting by the pulmonologist
- PET scan for risk stratification
- Biopsy: Determine the most appropriate type from several possibilities
- Immediate referral to an oncologist or thoracic surgeon

For nodules of any size, a pulmonologist is always available to consult with you and/or see your patient.



New MRI Scanner, Charitable Gifts, Dayton's Best Physician Nominations



Atrium Medical Center

A new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner at Atrium Medical Center features a more powerful magnet and technology to produce clearer and more detailed images from inside the body. The Magnetom Vida 3 features a 3T magnet, which provides faster examinations with better image quality in abdominal or off-center applications, according to manufacturer Siemens. The scanner also features sensors that automatically detect respiratory data for patients, decreasing the time patients must hold their breath to get a good image. Atrium's Vida 3 is the only such MRI scanner in Butler and Warren counties. The device started scanning patients Oct. 27.



Michelle Eakins, MD, is joining Middletown Family Practice, a Premier Physician Network practice. Dr. Eakins attended American University of Antigua College of Medicine and completed her residency in family medicine at Henry Ford Hospital. Dr. Eakins will join Michael Robertson, MD, MBA; Matthew Stone, DO; and Ottilia

Bulathsinghalage, FNP, at the practice. The practice is located at 5275 St. Rt. 122, Suite 100, in Franklin, and is accepting new patients.

With numerous safety protocols in place, Atrium Medical Center's Brake for Breakfast remained committed to its goal of encouraging more women 40 and older to get an annual mammogram. Breakfast and breast health information were handed out to 300 people, making the 2020 event the third-highest distribution total since 2014. Radio



interviews featuring Patricia Braeuning, MD, were pre-recorded this year for safety. Guy Savir, MD, shared the importance of early screenings and detection during on-site media interviews the morning of the event.

The Help Endure a Loss (HEAL) Program's 22nd annual Walk to Remember found a virtual home this year. Atrium employees painted contributed names of children who have passed on kindness rocks, which were placed in the HEAL Memory Garden. On Oct. 15, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, a virtual "reading of names" was posted online. The 2020 virtual event video can be viewed online at HEAL2020.GiveSmart.com.



Atrium teamed up with the Middletown Police Department for a bicycle helmet giveaway for school-aged children. Several hospital departments donated new helmets for the effort, which was held in memory of a Middletown City Schools fourth grader killed in a bicycle accident. Atrium employees fitted children for new helmets and passed out bicycle safety information during the two-hour drive-up giveaway that attracted about 300 children.

Miami Valley Hospital Campuses

The Miami Valley Hospital Foundation received a grant for \$25,000 from the Mathile Family Foundation for general operating support for Promise to Hope, which provides compassionate treatment for pregnant women with substance abuse disorder. Since the program's inception in mid-2015, more than 515 moms have enrolled in Promise to Hope. This is the third grant awarded to the program by the Dayton-based Mathile Family Foundation.

Panera Bread locations in the Dayton area selected the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation and Pink Ribbon Girls as the beneficiaries of its Pink Ribbon Bagel sales for Breast Cancer

Awareness Month. Throughout October, a portion of the proceeds from all Pink Ribbon Bagel sales was donated to each organization. At Miami Valley Hospital, proceeds fund the Help Her Fight program, which provides screenings, diagnostic testing, and education for cancer and cancer-related conditions for uninsured and underinsured women. Proceeds benefit integrative therapy programs including specialized exercises, yoga, massage, therapeutic art, and other classes designed specifically for oncology patients.

Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton received a grant for \$150,000 for a new da Vinci Xi system at Miami Valley Hospital North. This state-of-the-art technology in surgical robotics was made possible by the Maxon Foundation and U.S. Bank. Providing minimally invasive surgery, the da Vinci Xi system is used for a variety of complex procedures. The Maxon Foundation has a special interest in providing grants for technologically advanced equipment that increases access to care and provides safer outcomes for patients.



As part of its annual nursing recognition activities, Premier Health presents a Lifetime Achievement Award for nursing. This year's recipient is **Rosa Lee Weinert**, who still holds her nursing license at age 91. Weinert is an alumna of the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing.



Miami Valley Hospital is enrolling patients in the REGN-COV2 study, Regeneron's investigational COVID-19 antibody treatment for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who are hospitalized or recovering at home. The hospital is the only clinical site in Ohio participating in both the hospitalized and outpatient trials. President Donald Trump received a dose of REGN-

COV2 following an "expanded access" request from the president's physicians. REGN-COV2 is an investigational antibody cocktail that is in clinical trials for the treatment of COVID-19. It consists of two potent, complementary virus-neutralizing antibodies and was designed specifically to target the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. Preliminary data released by Regeneron showed that REGNCOV2 reduced viral levels and time to alleviate symptoms in non-hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Joseph Allen, MD, continued presentations to local school districts on safely returning to in-person learning. Virtual presentations in October were made to the faculty and staff of the Dayton Regional Stem School and to Dayton Early College Academy. Also, Roberto Colon, MD, was the keynote speaker for the Dayton Rotary Club membership. Dr. Colon gave a detailed update on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

New campus banners have been installed on all campuses. The new banners highlight the key clinical differentiators and recognitions.



Upper Valley Medical Center

Upper Valley Medical Center emergency services hosted a mass casualty training Oct. 21-23 with classroom education and training activities for Troy, Tipp City, and Elizabeth Township EMS squads. Upper Valley Career Center students also participated as "victims" and received important education on trauma prevention. The event was featured on WHIO-TV as well as in local print media.



The Upper Valley Medical Center Cardiac Catheterization Lab underwent an intense two-day survey by the Ohio Department of Health on Oct. 5 and 6. The survey, part of the routine tri-annual review process, included medical record review, policy review, cath lab inspection, and direct observation of a procedure by the surveyor. The survey was very successful with no citations issued and very positive comments by the surveyor regarding the performance of the staff.

A major upgrade to the pneumatic tube system at Upper Valley Medical Center was completed in mid-October. The new system is designed to provide enhanced features, reliability security and workflows. The UVMC Foundation secured funds via the Stouder Memorial Foundation to fund the project.



Scott Kanagy, DO, MBA, chief medical officer at Upper Valley Medical Center, was interviewed Oct. 26 on Troy Radio 107.1 and Piqua WPTW 98.1. Topics included a COVID-19 update, Premier Brake for Breakfast events, breast cancer diagnostics, and the advantages of the Premier/MD Anderson relationship.

Continued on next page

New MRI Scanner, Charitable Gifts, Dayton's Best Physician Nominations



Communications were launched in late October for new pediatrician **Shelsea Johnson, MD**, who joined the Pediatric Group in Piqua.

Premier Physician Network

The Liver Cancer Center of Ohio is now a part of Premier Surgical Oncology, a Premier Physician Network practice. The center brings together some of the area's top interventional radiologists and surgical oncologists to offer coordinated care in conjunction with a patient's other care providers.

PPN patients can now check in for their appointments in their MyChart account before arriving at their provider's office. With eCheck-In, they can securely sign their appointment paperwork, fill out medical questionnaires, verify their insurance, and pay their copay. eCheck-In will reduce time in our waiting rooms and help keep our PPN offices safer for everyone.

Aaron Block, MD, C. Joe Northup, MD, and Melinda Ruff, MD, were all nominated by members of the Dayton community as finalists in the Best Physician category of the Best of Dayton awards.



PPN patients can now opt in to receive text message appointment reminders. In the first two weeks of enabling this new feature, hundreds of PPN patients signed up.

Leelmohan Ravikumar, MD, from Upper Valley Family Medicine was interviewed by WHIO Channel 7 about the long-term recovery of one of his patients, Amy DeVos, a UVMC respiratory therapist.

Brian Schulze, MS, RRT-NPS, RPSGT, is now the Vice President of Primary Care for Premier Physician Network, effective Oct. 11.



Provider Praise

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

Dr. Hendricks is very helpful and knowledgeable. She seems to sense when I am struggling to calm down and comprehend my visit's details. I appreciate her patience with me.

Dr. Conley and staff are very personable and make me feel like I matter.

Dr. Parilo and all of his staff are wonderful, competent and caring. He took the time to help me with options regarding insurance coverage.

Dr. Grice is an exceptional provider. She listens attentively and always provides relevant information for any recommendations she makes.

Absolutely love **Dr. Aldstadt!** Always takes time to make you feel valued.

Dr. Marriott was there for our family when we visited the emergency room. We were lucky to see such a wonderful and knowledgeable provider.

Dr. Block is one of the best physicians I have had the pleasure of knowing. Premier Health is lucky to have him on their team.

Dr. Harju and his entire staff provide excellent service to our family.

Dr. Bell listened to my concerns and was very caring.