

Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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Listening, really listening, is so much more than hearing. Listening is an active, not passive, engagement.

— Matthew Reeves, DO, MBA

Listening: Case in Point, COVID-19 Vaccines

By Matthew Reeves, DO, MBA, president, Premier Health Group; system vice president, value services, Premier Health



Vaccine hesitancy is not a new phenomenon. However, it is shifting. When I was in practice in the early 2000s, most of the vaccine hesitant patients/

consumers were the parents of young children who feared the development of autism or some other adverse outcome of the vaccine in question. Now, and from my perspective, the vaccine hesitant are mostly adults and, oddly, some from the very fields of science and research that should provide an understanding. The fact that they are mostly adults is not surprising given the COVID-19 vaccine is intended for the adult population and we are not lining up children to administer shots. However, the fact that we see hesitancy or resistance from folks educated in health care and related sciences is surprising.

The primary driver of this hesitancy is mostly a lack of confidence and trust in the developed vaccines. We're told it takes years to develop a vaccine due to the very complex processes involved. So, how could these two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines be developed in under one year and be deemed safe? Well, there's a logical explanation for this; the mRNA platform has been under development for approximately 10 years and is more easily and rapidly adaptable to new viruses, thus the benefit of the platform. Plus, genetic composition of the virus was published quickly after its discovery. Further, Phase I, II, and III trials were conducted in an overlapping design. All the while, the manufacturing of the vaccines took place in parallel. However, that's NOT the point of this commentary. Yes, we can hit folks over the head with an abundance of great data, but data is not necessarily what our audience needs or desires.

What is it then that they thirst for? As a physician, I've adhered to the importance of being a good listener. Listening, really listening, is so much more than hearing. Listening is an active, not passive, engagement. We need to understand and fully address the needs, thoughts and fears of the questioner. Seeking to first understand is as important as it is to provide data. Yes, data in relatable form and fashion is very important. However, sometimes the inquisitor is not in search of data, but just to be understood. If we can get to that space with our audience, we will have real engagement and can begin to move forward together as a supportive society with unified goals, and maybe, just maybe, the reassurance of normalcy...

As always, I'd love to hear what you think. Yes, I'll really listen...

Workflow Improvements for Breast Cancer Pathology Labs



CompuNet Clinical Laboratories' pathology program has established a 2.5-day turnaround goal for returning breast biopsy specimen results to

providers. The workflow will standardize the process for each hospital site to ensure the specimen is getting to the courier as quickly as possible. The breast biopsy workflow includes who delivers the specimen, when it is delivered, where it is delivered, how it is prioritized, and how it is documented.

"This workflow is like a circle," explained Atef Shrit, MD, pathologist and board of directors chairman, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories. "The process begins immediately after the radiologist or surgeon removes the lesion.

It is our goal to get the specimen to our lab as quickly as possible, so we can deliver the diagnosis back to the patient's provider in a timely manner."

The process begins immediately after a breast biopsy specimen is collected, when it is transported to the hospital lab. From there, the specimen is taken by CompuNet courier to the histology core lab at Miami Valley Hospital, where mandated processing times are followed. Slides are then generated, which provide pathologists the opportunity to view and read the slides on-site at Atrium Medical Center, Miami Valley Hospital, and Upper Valley Medical Center. Ultimately, this workflow will give providers an initial or final finding within 2.5 days.

"Turnaround time is critical for the patient," said Dr. Shrit. "This process is incredibly

stressful for the patient who has a breast carcinoma, and their family. The faster we can arrive at a diagnosis and provide treatment for the patient, the better off they are."

Times can vary if additional stains are requested. Pathologists can order an ER/PR test in EPIC, which is performed Monday through Friday. The more complex test, a HER2 test, is performed twice per week on Monday and Thursday and read the following day. For more information on this new workflow, please contact the patient's pathologist, Dr. Shrit, or Teresa Williams, chief operating officer, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories.

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:

I was very pleased with the experience, the scheduling, the very short wait, and the professionalism of **Dr. Adam**. I could not have been treated more respectfully.

Dr. Wood was very kind and took time to listen to me. I deeply appreciated the time he spent with me.

Dr. Studebaker always listens to my concerns. He always takes the time to look up any test results that he has ordered in the past. He always explains any future tests and procedures.

I think **Dr. Cheng-Ching** is a wonderful doctor and saved my husband from having a stroke or losing sight in his eye. He has a great team.

The office staff is very kind and helpful. **Dr. Kohut** took time and explained everything to me.

Dr. McHenry is a wonderful physician - both pleasant and knowledgeable.

We feel fortunate to have him as our primary care physician.

I'm so thankful to have **Dr. Soto**. He listens to my symptoms and does something about them.

Dr. Gibson and the staff listen to me. Most patients, like me, appreciate a provider such as Dr. Gibson. He always takes the patient's view into consideration.

Dr. Mauro was so helpful in the emergency department and listened to my concerns. I really appreciated his insight. Excellent experience.

Anesthesiologist Inspired to Become Physician in Teenage Years



Thomas Fritz, MD,
anesthesiologist

What is your clinical specialty?

Anesthesiology

Where did you go to school?

University of Kentucky College of Medicine

What brought you to Premier Health?

I was recruited to Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton by a former University of Cincinnati anesthesiology resident, and after 23 years and the closing of that facility, was asked to join (again, by former UC residents) the group at Atrium Medical Center. This move has allowed me to continue my career within the Premier Health system.

Why did you choose medicine as a career?

I underwent back surgery as a teenager and experienced first-hand the caring side of medicine.

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

My former pediatrician, Dr. Thomas Egan and Wayne Kiser, CRNA

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

I've started practicing yoga and meditation this year (seemed like a good time to try it).

Where is your hometown?

Grew up in Ft. Mitchell, Ky, but have lived in West Chester, Ohio for the past 25 years

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

University of Kentucky basketball

What is the last book you read?

"Think Like a Monk" by Jay Shetty

What is your favorite song in your playlist?

Somewhere Over the Rainbow/It's a Wonderful World by IZ - reminds me of the first time I heard it during a helicopter ride over the Na Pali Coast in Hawaii

What is your favorite food?

Any "bar food" that goes with a cold beer (loaded nachos, mozzarella sticks, etc.) - definitely not "healthy."

What is your favorite hobby?

Photography

What is your favorite animal, and why?

Dogs - unconditional love and affection

Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

Hilton Head - nice weather, food, and outdoor activities

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

My wife, Molly, who has been with me through thick and thin for more than 37 years.

Pick a side

iPhone or Android

iPhone

Early bird or night owl

Night owl

Beach bum or mountain hiker?

Mountain hiker

Dress shoes or tennis shoes?

Tennis shoes

Paperback or e-reader?

e-reader

Coffee or tea?

Coffee

Cooking or baking?

Cooking

Sweet or salty?

Sweet





Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, a disease that affects nearly 1 million people in the United States, according to the National MS Society. The Premier Health Clinical Neuroscience Institute's Multiple Sclerosis Center at Miami Valley Hospital South offers local care for patients with multiple sclerosis (MS).

The Multiple Sclerosis Center brings together the latest advanced treatments, methods, and approaches in caring for patients with MS and other neuroimmunology disorders, such as neuromyelitis optica (NMO), myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein (MOG), and others. Specialist Tracy Eicher, MD, MSCS, and an advanced nurse practitioner are both certified in multiple sclerosis care by the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers.

Additionally, the CNSI Infusion Center offers a variety of best practice therapies focused on MS. In addition to the most up-to-date therapy, patient benefits of the infusion center start with the care area. CNSI is the only neuro-infusion center in the area in which each patient is treated in a private

room with a comfortable infusion recliner. With the infusion center located in the CNSI clinic, providers have immediate access to the patient for any issue or treatment questions.



To learn more about the CNSI's Multiple Sclerosis Center, visit the CNSI website at PremierHealth.com/clinical-neuroscience-institute.



To refer a patient for neurological evaluation and treatment, call **(937) 438-7500** or look for Clinical Neuroscience Institute in EPIC and include "Direct Referral to Dr. Eicher" in the comment section. Non-EPIC practices may use the Clinical Neuroscience Institute referral sheet.

Injury or Pain Slowing Down Your Patient? Get Them Back in Motion



You can trust your patients to the same doctors and surgeons who care for the University of Dayton Flyers, Wright State University Raiders, and many area high school athletes.

Premier Orthopedics is one of the largest and highly trained orthopedic and sports medicine groups in Southwest Ohio. Our team includes board-certified and fellowship-trained specialists in complex musculoskeletal challenges.

Whatever their age or skill level, Premier Orthopedics supports athletes and active adults with personalized, comprehensive treatment plans. Our goal is to get your patients back to the activities that matter most to them.

Premier Orthopedics makes it easy for your patients to get the care they need with many convenient locations and options to be seen – often same or next day.

Easy to Refer

EPIC offices can search Premier Orthopedics in the order search box. Non-EPIC offices can fax referrals to:



Beavercreek/Centerville
(937) 312-1701

Dayton/Huber Heights
(937) 208-4007

**Englewood/Tipp City/
Vandalia**
(937) 832-2986

Middletown/Monroe
(513) 424-3599

Oakwood/Springboro
(937) 312-1701

Troy
(937) 339-1213

Boosalis Named to *Modern Healthcare's* Top 25 Women Leaders List



Premier Health is proud to announce that its president and CEO, Mary Boosalis, has been recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of its 2021

Top 25 Women Leaders. This is the second consecutive acknowledgment for Boosalis.

The highly selective awards program, which recognizes female health care executives from across the country every two years, acknowledges executives who are influencing policy and care delivery models nationwide. In doing so, it highlights the continued need to nurture diversity in health care leadership.

Boosalis has held numerous leadership roles at Premier Health since joining Miami Valley Hospital in 1986. She became the first woman to lead Premier Health upon being named president and CEO in 2017. Under her leadership, the percentage of Premier Health vice presidents who are women has increased to more than 50 percent. The health system also continues to make great strides in promoting diversity; in recent years, more than half of its construction spending has been with diverse suppliers.

Boosalis has been a strong advocate for partnerships with like-minded organizations

that help Premier Health deliver health care at a value to the community and address public health challenges such as the region's overdose crisis. She has also led initiatives to address social determinants of health by supporting many unique and preventive community benefit projects, including a new paramedicine program, a barbershop health screening and education program, and substantial assistance in supporting a new co-op grocery store in an area that has been designated as a food desert.

Throughout 2020, Boosalis has led Premier Health through unprecedented times and an unforgettable COVID-19 pandemic response, including:

- Opening one of Ohio's first specimen collection sites at the University of Dayton, providing local residents a safe way to be tested
- When protective personal equipment supply chains were strained, local partnerships enabled an innovative solution to manufacture isolation gowns
- Miami Valley Hospital was the first hospital in the nation to provide convalescent plasma therapy using the Mayo Clinic's protocols
- The region was represented by Boosalis on national news programs bringing attention to local needs for supplies and resources

Boosalis is a diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She is a member of the Board of the Ohio Hospital Association and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association Board. She currently serves as the chair of the University of Dayton Board of Trustees, and as a member of the Dayton Development Coalition Board, the Dayton Business Committee, the City Manager Advisory Council, and Hub Group, Inc. She is a past member of the Sinclair Community College Board, the Life Connection Board, and is a past chair of the Dayton area's American Heart Association Board.

In 2019, Modern Healthcare recognized Boosalis as being one of the Top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare in the country. In 2020, Modern Healthcare named her to the national list of 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives. She has also been named to the Top 10 Women list by the Dayton Daily News, has been recognized as an Ohio Most Powerful and Influential Woman by the Ohio Diversity Council, and as a Woman of Influence by the Dayton YWCA. She was also honored as a member of the inaugural class of the Dayton Business Hall of Fame.

New All Provider Directory on Website

By Mikki Clancy, CISA, chief digital officer, Premier Health

As part of our 2023 strategic plan, Premier Health is working to make our health care services more accessible than ever to consumers. One aspect of this journey is helping consumers easily find providers on our website, using up-to-date and accurate data. While we are still working on our new Find a Provider tool, we are pleased to announce the successful rollout of our new all provider directory.

The provider directory contains basic listings for all credentialed providers with membership privileges at our hospitals. Data for these listings, which includes provider name, specialty, practice name, address, and phone number, is being pulled from our current CareFinders database.



Where to find directory

The new provider directory can be found at **PremierHealth.com/find-a-doctor.**

If you have any questions or need updates to your listing, please contact Wendy Parks, director of marketing, Premier Health, at **whparks@premierhealth.com.**



EPIC Lab (Beaker) Scheduled for Go-Live April 10

On April 10 at 1 a.m., EPIC Beaker will be deployed at Miami Valley Hospital, Miami Valley Hospital South, Miami Valley Hospital Austin Emergency Center, and Miami Valley Hospital Jamestown Emergency Center. This deployment will complete the conversion to EPIC Beaker, thus achieving our strategy for continuity across all Premier Health hospital labs.

BENEFITS

Improved access to approximately 50 percent more laboratory tests - The increase in test options with a consolidated test compendium reflects tests available at all Premier facilities performed within the Beaker labs, CompuNet's core lab, and external reference labs.

Consistent flow of laboratory orders – Lab orders placed at MVHN, MVHS, MVHJ, or MVHA will consistently flow to Beaker labs and be valid orders at MVH on patients who transfer to MVH (or vice versa).

Convenient electronic test “Add On” process – Providers no longer need to call the lab to request an add-on test. Beaker will suggest existing specimens to providers to

save patient draws. If an add-on is requested, the lab will have the ability to judge if a specimen is still viable and, if not, send for a new collection without the need for provider intervention. The EPIC Beaker transition will also introduce a standardized lab formulary to ensure optimal lab test utilization across all Beaker sites.

Electronic pathology orders – Pathology orders placed at MVH will electronically flow through Beaker to the CoPath Pathology system, eliminating the need for paper requisitions or printed EPIC paper orders.

Conservation of patient's blood - Beaker combines as many tests as possible into a single container, including tests requested as add-ons.

Positive Patient ID compliance reporting – Beaker will save scan overrides if Positive Patient ID workflows are not followed. Beaker can track overrides for investigation and reporting.

How is this change going to affect me?

The look of some lab orders may change and required fields may be different.

Duplicate orders within eight hours will be automatically deleted. If the provider requires another of the same test within eight hours, the order will need to be placed as Timed with a specific time or STAT & Now.

Pathology orders will be entered into EPIC. Specimens sent to the lab during a procedure will be entered as verbal orders, and the provider will be required to cosign the verbal orders.

Any current, saved lab order Favorites and any User Order Sets will need to be deleted and re created.

For additional information, The Beaker Guide for Medical Staff is located on the EPIC Provider Learning homepage. Prior to go-live, if you have questions or would like to see orders in a practice environment, please contact one of the inpatient medical staff trainers, Robin Coale or Beth Boudroua.

After Beaker is implemented, Coale and Boudroua will be available to assist you with re-saving your Favorites or User Order Sets. The trainers can be contacted through the Customer Support Desk at **(937) 208-2737**.

CompuNet Expands COVID-19 Testing Locations with No Doctor's Order Needed

In late February, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories began offering both COVID-19 PCR and COVID-19 Antigen testing without a doctor's order at the OnMain COVID collection center at 1229 S. Main St., Dayton, across from Miami Valley Hospital. Both tests are available to adults and minors (with guardian permission) and no appointment is necessary at the OnMain location.

Patients without a doctor's order can purchase either the PCR test for \$100 or the Antigen test for \$60.

While COVID-19 infections are decreasing, CompuNet is seeing an increased demand for direct access to COVID tests. Direct access allows for a patient to purchase a lab test, without a doctor's order, and access their results online. The increased demand for direct access is likely due to individuals wanting to know their COVID test result before traveling and, in some cases, a negative COVID test result may be required for travel documentation.

COVID-19 PCR testing is considered the "gold standard" for accuracy and is recommended for individuals who have COVID symptoms or who believe they have been exposed. COVID-19 PCR testing is highly recommended for those who need travel documentation. Results will be available within the 72-hour required travel window.

COVID-19 Antigen testing is typically recommended for an individual who is within five days of having COVID-19 symptoms and the test provides rapid results within a couple hours.

DAYTON AREA LOCATIONS

Direct Access – no doctor's order needed - PCR and Antigen Testing at these locations:

- DAYTON: OnMain COVID Collection Center, 1229 S. Main St.
 - Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 - No appointment needed at OnMain
- MIAMISBURG: Miami Valley Hospital Austin Blvd. Emergency Center, 300 Austin West Blvd.
 - Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon - 5 p.m.
 - Appointment required

Direct Access – no doctor's order needed - PCR Testing Only at these locations:

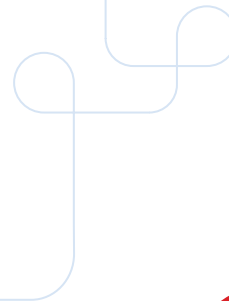
- BEAVERCREEK: CompuNet Beaver Creek Lakeview Patient Service Center, 2400 Lakeview Drive
 - Monday – Friday 7:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.)
 - Appointment required
- MIDDLETOWN: Atrium Medical Center Drive-Through Collection Location, One Medical Center Drive
 - 7 Days/Week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 - Appointment required
- SPRINGFIELD: 2355 Derr Road
 - Monday – Friday 8:10 a.m. - 4:50 p.m. (closed noon – 1 p.m. for lunch)
 - Appointment required

- TROY: Upper Valley Medical Center Drive-Through Collection Location, 3130 N. County Road 25A
 - 7 Days/Week, 1 - 5:30 p.m.
 - Appointment required
- TROY: 1850 W. Main Street
 - Monday – Friday 8:10 a.m. - 4:50 p.m. (closed noon - 1 p.m. for lunch)
 - Appointment required

CINCINNATI AREA LOCATIONS

Direct Access – no doctor's order needed - PCR and Antigen Testing at these locations:

- WEST CHESTER: CompuNet Patient Service Center, Tylersville Point Center, 7743 Tylersville Road
 - Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (closed for lunch noon - 1 p.m.)
 - Appointment required
- MONTGOMERY: CompuNet Montgomery Patient Service Center, 11135 Montgomery Road
 - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1 - 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday 3 - 5 p.m.
 - Appointment required



Appointments can be made at compunetlab.com.



When patients arrive at the testing site, they should remain in their car and call the phone number on the sign.

Test results are available through CompuNet's online patient portal, My Labs Now. To access or sign up for My Labs Now go to compunetlab.com or text **MYLABS** to **66349**. Follow the sign up link in the text message you receive.

Additional locations will offer direct access testing for both COVID PCR and Antigen at CompuNet Patient Service Centers in Troy (1850 W. Main St.), Springfield (2355 Derr Road), and Middletown (62 N. Breiel).

CompuNet continues to accept physician-ordered COVID-19 testing.



Exciting Changes and Achievements for Oncology

By Mikki Clancy, CISA, chief digital officer and system vice president of oncology services, Premier Health



The Premier Health Oncology Institute is excited about several initiatives that are improving cancer services, research, prevention, screening, and education.

In January 2021, Premier Health and MD Anderson Cancer Network® renewed their affiliation and began strategic visioning for the next three years. As we continue our vision of one Premier Health Cancer Services program, our relationship with MD Anderson is a foundational element as part of our quality program, an extension of care plan coordination through peer review, and offering new clinical trials. As we progress through the next few months, we will have site assessments that will open additional clinical trials to Premier Health patients. We would like to welcome Roger Wood, MD, a hematology/oncology physician with Dayton Physicians, who is joining the ranks of our 53 MD Anderson Certified physicians.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness month and Premier Health is offering additional opportunities for colon cancer education and screening. We will begin offering an additional option in early April for colon cancer screening through PolyMedCo FIT testing for patients unwilling to go through a colonoscopy screening. This will be offered through Premier Physician Network and CompuNet Clinical Laboratories to our patients as an additional screening option. Colonoscopy remains the gold standard for colon cancer screening and diagnostics. On March 31, we will offer a public virtual education session for colon cancer prevention, screening, genetics, and medical and surgical options for colon cancer treatment featuring James Ouellette, DO; Mark Marinella, MD; and Matthew Doepker, MD.

Our Cancer Prevention program continues to roll out through physician offices. Thus far we have screened more than 2,500 patients, with more than 50 patients being identified with cancer risk that required changes to

their treatment plan to mitigate their risk including screening, vaccine, nutrition, education, monitoring, and education. If you have additional questions regarding this program, please reach out to Mikki Clancy or Emily Townsend.

Our Monarch® bronchoscopy robotics reached a milestone earlier this month with 50 patients who have received their lung biopsy. More than 63 percent were upper lobe lesions with an average size of 2.65 centimeters and about 38 percent required surgical intervention. We are very proud of the advancement of care for our patients with this new technology that was donated by the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation.

As always, if you have any questions about the exciting work happening in Premier Health Cancer Services, please reach out to Charles Bane, MD; Dr. Ouellette; Ryan Steinmetz, MD; or Mikki Clancy. We are open to any ideas to continue to grow oncology services in our community.

One Medical Staff Update

By Marc Belcastro, DO, system chief medical officer, Premier Health



On April 1, the updated bylaws reflecting a unified medical staff will be official. This has been an incredible journey, and on behalf of Premier

Health, I would like to say thank you to all who assisted us in achieving this milestone. I want to provide a high-level view of the new structure and congratulate members of the new system Medical Executive Committee (MEC).

Starting in April, the MECs at each facility will transition to what will be Medical Staff Operating Committees (MSOCs) with department representation at each hospital per their existing structure. As one medical staff, we only have one department of surgery, medicine, pediatrics, orthopedics, etc., but each hospital may have a physician represent that department as a chair. The MSOCs will continue to oversee local peer review (MSQC) as well as professionalism and wellness and report up to the system MEC as well as the local boards. The process of credentialing will be centralized to one system committee and report through the system MEC. This MEC will report up to the Premier Health Board.

While each hospital will continue to elect a medical staff president, one of these

presidents will be chosen by the MEC to be the system chief of staff. There is a regulatory requirement for a unified medical staff to have one physician leader to chair the MEC and represent the entire medical staff.

The voting members of the new MEC is now comprised of the presidents and president-elects from each hospital as well as nine at-large members (total 15 voting members). These nine at-large members have been nominated and appointed, in part, by the local MSOCs as well as the presidents and president-elects. Congratulations are in order for the following at-large members: James Ouellette, DO; Melanie Glover, MD; April Anderson, MD; Jill Aston, MD; Jamie Yunger, MD; Heather Adkins, MD; Larry Holland, DO; Scott Swabb, DO; and Nishant Kalra, MD. In addition, we thank and congratulate Mickey Denen, MD, the new chair of the system credentialing committee. Dr. Denen will transition from the credentials chair at Miami Valley Hospital to the system chair.

So many have been working behind the scenes to establish our new structure, but I wanted to extend a sincere thank you to Jenna Downey, Esq., director and corporate counsel, Premier Health, for her guidance and tireless efforts to assist in the restructuring of our medical staff.



James Ouellette, DO



Melanie Glover, MD



April Anderson, MD



Jill Aston, MD



Jamie Yunger, MD



Heather Adkins, MD



Larry Holland, DO



Scott Swabb, DO



Nishant Kalra, MD



Mickey Denen, MD

Leading COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout; Addressing Racial Disparities; and Expanding Imaging Capabilities

Atrium Medical Center



Atrium Medical Center is one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for prostate surgery, according to new research released by Healthgrades.

The hospitals that have achieved the Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Prostate Surgery Award™ have demonstrated superior clinical outcomes in prostate removal surgery and transurethral resection of the prostate. Healthgrades found men treated at these hospitals have a 57.1 percent lower average risk of complications compared to men treated at other hospitals.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio has, for the third time, recognized Atrium Medical Center with a Blue Distinction® Centers+ (BDC+) for Maternity Care designation, as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated health care facilities that show a commitment to delivering high quality patient safety and better health outcomes, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community and leading accreditation and quality organizations.

Premier Health has been a major force in helping its school partners execute COVID-19 vaccines. In Warren County, 18 school districts (public, private, and charter) partnered with Premier Health to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to their staffs.



Jamie Yunger, MD, medical director of Atrium's critical care unit, has hosted several talks about COVID vaccines throughout the community. Among

the groups to whom he has presented are Warren County Career Center staff, Blue Star Families – Dayton Chapter, and the Great Miami Valley YMCA. In his talks, Dr. Yunger gives a detailed overview of the vaccines and dispels common myths.



Andre Harris, MD, chief medical officer at Atrium, was a featured panelist for the Dayton Daily News' latest Community Conversation. The

Facebook Live event explored the question, "Does Your Race Affect the Quality of Your Healthcare?" A replay of the forum can

be accessed via the Dayton Daily News Facebook page.

The City of Franklin Division of Fire & EMS recently brought its newest member, Demeter – a 1½-year-old black Labrador – to visit Atrium staff. Demeter is part of the fire department's pilot project focusing on first responder mental health. Demeter's visits can help decrease anxiety and emotional distress, and provide comfort, according to the fire department.

Miami Valley Hospital Campuses



Miami Valley Hospital has been recognized by Healthgrades® as one of the nation's 100 best hospitals for a sixth straight year. The distinction

places the hospital among the top two percent of 4,500 hospitals analyzed in the nation for demonstrating clinical excellence across a broad spectrum of care. It includes Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood and Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville. Miami Valley Hospital was the only recipient of the award in the Dayton area. Patients at "America's 100 Best Hospitals" are more likely to have a successful treatment without major complications. The award is based solely on the hospital's clinical quality outcomes for the years 2017 through 2019, according to Healthgrades.

Premier Health acquired and implemented aviation-specific masks for CareFlight Air and Mobile Services. The P100 Tiger Performance Masks are utilized industry wide for air medical transport. CareFlight Air and Mobile is the first in the Dayton region to implement these masks program-wide. The high-quality, aviation specific, reusable P100 respirator masks filter out up to 99.97 percent of airborne particles. The masks are fitted for each crew member and are comfortable to wear for extended periods of time during transport in the aircraft and in the mobile



intensive care unit (MICU), CareFlight's ground transportation.

February was American Heart Month. Funded by foundation donors, Miami Valley Hospital expanded its Remote Patient Monitoring Program. The system-wide program places remote patient monitoring tablets with Bluetooth assessment devices in the homes of patients with cardiopulmonary diseases including COPD, diabetes, pneumonia, congestive heart failure, and COVID-19. The monitors are provided at no cost to patients who meet program criteria. In addition to providing education in self-care management, the monitors assist patients in staying connected with their health care providers while helping to prevent or reduce avoidable readmissions.

K-12 COVID-19 vaccine clinics were held throughout the greater Dayton



community for school administrators, teachers, and staff. Media events were held for clinics involving Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School, Trotwood-Madison City Schools, Beavercreek City Schools (as well as other Greene County districts), Mason City Schools, and Troy City Schools, Tipp City Schools, and other Miami County schools. The vaccine clinics were covered by multiple media outlets in the Dayton and Cincinnati markets.

Through the Helping Hands program, the foundations continue to coordinate and distribute donations from the community. This month, hundreds of meals were donated by Sinclair Community College for staff at all Miami Valley Hospital campuses. Sinclair has donated 150 lunches once a week at each campus throughout January and February.

Continued on next page



Upper Valley Medical Center

In late February, Upper Valley Medical Center installed a new three Tesla system MRI that will allow for enhanced images and expanded overall capabilities. The only three Tesla system in Miami County, it can be used for any MRI procedures, including prostate and breast imaging. This new Siemens Vida unit replaces an Avanto unit installed in 2009.

Scott Kanagy, DO, MBA, chief medical officer, Upper Valley Medical Center, and Jacqui Rose, imaging and telecommunications director, were interviewed by Troy WTJN 107.1 and Piqua WPTW 98.1 radio stations Feb. 22 to provide a monthly health care update focused on the local COVID-19 status and the installation of the new 3 Tesla MRI system at UVMC.



Joshua Klepinger, MD, emergency department physician at Upper Valley Medical Center, was named new medical director of the

Health Partners Free Clinic in Miami County and was featured in a news story in the Dayton Daily News on Feb. 25.

The Upper Valley Medical Center Cancer Program underwent a triennial site review by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer on Feb. 22. The event, held virtually due to COVID-19, involved the cancer team, cancer committee members, and UVMC leaders participating in a day-long survey to verify that the program continues to maintain standards necessary for CoC accreditation. Sarah Jones, cancer program manager, reports the survey went well and positive results of the review are anticipated by the end of March.

The Patient Flow Project was featured in a half-page article and renderings in the annual Miami Valley Today Progress Edition on Feb. 19. Launched in 2019, and now in its final stages, the renovation project is designed to provide greater ease of access, comfort, and convenience for patients and visitors as they enter the hospital, as well as greater efficiencies for staff.

Kevin Harlan, president, Upper Valley Medical Center; Tim Snider, chief operating

officer, Upper Valley Medical Center; and Steve Staley, chair of the Upper Valley Medical Center Parent Board, toured new construction at the Lincoln Community Center and the Miami County Family Abuse Shelter in Troy on Feb. 15. Both construction and expansion projects received major support from the UVMC Board's Community Benefits Fund.

