# **Premier Pulse**

News for Premier Health Physicians

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2018

## Premier Health Medical Marijuana Survey Coming in September

By Jennifer Hauler, DO, system chief medical officer, Premier Health



Emperor Shen Neng of China prescribed marijuana tea for the treatment of gout, rheumatism, malaria, and poor memory as early as 2737 B.C., according to Time magazine. Despite historical accounts of the use of marijuana as a medical treatment for thousands of years, the federal government has classified marijuana as a Schedule I drug with no therapeutic benefit since 1970. Over the last two decades, several states

have decreased restrictions on the use of medical marijuana. In September 2016, Gov. John Kasich signed House Bill 523 into law, making Ohio the 25th state to approve medical marijuana. Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program is mandated by law to be operational Sept. 8, 2018, but the program's launch has been delayed. That means patients will not immediately have access to medical marijuana.

The program is administered by the Ohio Department of Commerce, which regulates and licenses the cultivators, processors, and laboratories; the Pharmacy Board, which regulates the dispensaries, patient and caregiver licenses, and evaluates new forms and methods of medical marijuana use; and the Medical Board, which certifies physicians to recommend marijuana and evaluates new qualifying conditions. House Bill 523 approves five forms of medical marijuana: oils, tinctures, plant materials, edibles, and patches. Formulations and methods of administration that require smoking, are combustible, or are considered attractive to children are prohibited. There are also restrictions on the THC content and what constitutes a 90-day supply.

Federal law prohibits doctors from prescribing marijuana. Interested physicians must apply for a certificate to recommend (CTR) from the State Medical Board. This requires the completion of a two-hour CME course. There are 21 qualifying conditions for which medical marijuana can be recommended: AIDS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, Crohn's disease, epilepsy/seizure disorder, fibromyalgia, glaucoma, hepatitis C, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, pain (chronic/severe or intractable), Parkinson's disease, positive status for HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder, sickle cell anemia, spinal cord disease or injury, Tourette's syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and ulcerative colitis.

All patients and caregivers must register with the Board of Pharmacy. The registration is electronic and can be submitted by the patient's recommending physician or the physician's delegate. The annual registration fee is \$50 for patients and \$25 for caregivers.

(continued on back)





premierhealth.com

#### YOU'RE INVITED

## Patient Blood Management Program Kickoff Events

Premier Health's Patient Blood Management Program is up and running. Kickoff events at each hospital have been scheduled as follows:

#### **Atrium Medical Center:**

Thursday, Aug. 30, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Atrium conference rooms 1A and 1B

#### Miami Valley Hospital:

Thursday, Aug. 30, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Miami Valley Hospital board room

#### **Upper Valley Medical Center**

Thursday, Sept. 6, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in UVMC conference room A

Premier Health's new blood management program seeks to improve both transfusion utilization and transfusion safety; optimize diagnosis and management of anemia; and minimize bleeding and blood loss. Programs like the comprehensive approach Premier Health is taking have reduced the incidence of blood product transfusion by 30 percent to 40 percent. Premier Health is collaborating on the project with Accumen, a national company with a strong track record of success in patient blood management.



## **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. Amin** is one of the nicest and caring doctors I have ever had the pleasure of seeing. She takes care of both myself and my father, and I trust her 100 percent. If only all doctors could be like Dr. Amin, and if only I had found her sooner!!

**Dr. Avery** has been my primary care doctor for 25 yrs. He is a good man, a good doctor, and takes whatever time he needs to talk through my health issues.

I loved him. **Dr. Dulin** was so nice. What a pleasure to see a doctor with a nice smile. He was to the point and has a wonderful personality.

**Dr. Heck** and staff were kind, warm, and professional.

I've been seeing **Dr. Goyal** for many years and think he is a wonderful cardiologist. Polite, professional, calming, and takes his time answering questions.

I feel very fortunate to be under the care of **Dr. Williams**. He is smart, compassionate, and listens to my concerns and questions. He responds to email questions very quickly. I could not be happier with the care I receive from him, and also the staff in the office.

**Dr. Wolf** is a true health care provider of the highest caliber and professionalism. I have a complicated medical history, and he has handled it extremely well and with great compassion. He is an asset to Premier Health.

**Dr. Zeidan** is very knowledgeable, caring, and understanding. I have recommended several people to her, and they all are very pleased with her. She is outstanding.

### SAVE THE DATE CME Save the Date – Geriatric Update



### ALL-DAY GERIATRIC SYMPOSIUM

Geriatricians, primary care physicians, advanced practice providers, registered nurses, and anyone who works with the older adult population are invited to register for an upcoming all-day geriatric symposium sponsored by Premier Health, Miami Valley Hospital Foundation, and Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation-Dayton.

#### The 2018 Geriatric Update

WHEN: Wednesday, October 10

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Sinclair Conference Center

Room 116

Sinclair Community College

444 W, Third St. in Dayton

This continuing medical education symposium is designed to share evidence-based information to help clinicians provide exceptional care to our aging population. **Topics will include:** 

- · Medication review and deprescribing techniques
- Managing multiple chronic conditions
- Promoting positive self-image and staying active while aging
- · Updates in geriatric cardiac care and respiratory care
- · Managing distress behaviors in older adults (delirium)

Online registration is available at https://medicine.wright.edu/continuing-medical-education/geriatric-update. Please direct questions to Continuing Medical Education at (937) 208-2144 or tmcory@premierhealth.com.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Wright State University (WSU) and Premier Health. WSU designated this Live Activity for a maximum of 7.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits<sup>TM</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Introducing the Central Verification Office for Physician Credentialing



Premier Health has standardized the physician credentialing process with the formation of the Central Verification Office, or CVO. Launched on July 9, the CVO supports privileging and enrollment activities and ensures best practices across the system.

The CVO is a "one-stop shop" for practitioner credentialing and re-credentialing. Its services will reduce duplication and streamline the credentialing process. Physicians will be assigned one credentialing specialist who will manage their needs for all Premier Health hospitals. The CVO's main function will be primary source verification, while medical staff office personnel will continue to privilege and address other physician staff needs.

#### The CVO Credentialing Process

The CVO team will verify physician and Allied Health Practitioner licenses, education, residency, and training credentials through primary source verification (PSV). They will monitor license expiration dates and sanctions. The credentialing process will be performed initially with employed and independent practitioners, and recredentialing will be performed on a two-year cycle.

Once the CVO has completed the PSV functions, a packet will be emailed to the medical staff offices to complete privileging and facilitate the practitioners' introduction to the MEC, credentialing committee, and board for approval; and to Premier Physician Network to enroll the practitioners in all health plans associated with Premier Health.

#### Physician Services: CVO and Medical Staff Offices

#### **CVO Functions: Employed and Independent Practitioners**

- Initial application and primary source verification of education, license, boards, sanctions/exclusions, work history, and insurance
- Re-credentialing of existing providers every two years
- Ongoing monitoring of license(s)/insurance/board expirations

### Medical Staff Office Functions: Employed and Independent Practitioners

- Privileging
- Preparing provider for dept./credentials chair, credentialing committee, Medical Executive Committee, and governing board meetings
- Provider orientation
- Meeting agendas
- Meeting calendars
- Out-of-town notices

#### **Contact the CVO**

Patricia Lowman is the director of the CVO, and there are currently six credentialing specialists. The CVO is located in suite 1504 at Miami Valley Hospital, and can be reached at **(833) 229-7736** (toll free); **(937) 208-3504**; or **PHCVO@premierhealth.com**.

We invite you to visit the Premier Health CVO website at **premierhealth.com/CVO**. If you have any questions about the CVO and the services it provides, please contact Patricia Lowman at **(937) 208-2055** or **ptlowman@premierhealth.com**.



#### PHYSICIAN PROFILE

## Hospitalist Loves Board Games, Video Games, Card Games



Jessica M. Conn, DO, is a member of the Premier Hospitalist Group and serves on the Premier Health Physician Partnership Committee.

What is your clinical specialty? Family medicine – currently working as a hospitalist

#### Where did you go to school?

For undergrad, I went to Milligan College in Elizabethton, Tennessee; LECOM-Erie in Erie, Pennsylvania, for medical school.

#### What brought you to Premier Health?

I was in private practice in Lancaster, Ohio, looking for a career change so I could spend more time with my family. Through my mom, who works at Atrium, the program director, Dr. Sheps, reached out to me about being a hospitalist.

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

I was originally going to do veterinarian medicine; however, I got a job as a patient care assistant in surgery at the old Middletown Regional Hospital. I really enjoyed working with people. I also got to stand in on a few surgeries just to observe, and that sparked my love of medicine.

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

My parents, both of whom are nurses. They helped me be the best person I can be. Also, a lot of the surgeons that I worked with, particularly Dr. Cobb, Dr. Walsh, and Dr. Miller.



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

I love playing games. Board games, video games, card games – I love them all!

Where is your hometown? Springboro, Ohio

What is the last book you read? "The Chronicles of Pern: First Fall" by Anne McCaffrey

What is your favorite song in your playlist? "Derezzed" by Daft Punk

What is your favorite food? Anything sweet; I love desserts.

#### What is your favorite hobby?

Playing games – any kind of game: board games, card games, and video games

What is your favorite animal, and why? Dog – I've had dogs all my life, and they are always there for you no matter what.

### Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

Las Vegas – the food!

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

I have a lot to be thankful for. But I think I am most thankful for my children and my husband. They keep me grounded. They are the smiling faces I get to go home to. I can't imagine my life without them.

### Pick a side

iPhone or Android? iPhone

Early bird or night owl? Night owl

Beach bum or mountain hiker? Beach bum

Dress shoes or tennis shoes? Dress shoes

Paperback or e-reader? Paperback

**Coffee or tea?** Definitely tea!

Cooking or baking? Baking

Sweet or salty? Sweet



# Miami Valley Hospital Austin Emergency Department to Open Soon

By Candy Skidmore, vice president of emergency and trauma services for Premier Health



The Emergency and Trauma Institute is excited to announce the near completion of a new free-standing emergency department! This past December, ground was

broken for a free-standing emergency department in Miamisburg. This coming fall, Miami Valley Hospital Austin Boulevard Emergency Center will provide full-service, 24-hour emergency care with easy access from Interstate 75, treating all patients with minor to severe injuries and conditions.

Many providers, as well as patients, have expressed concern regarding the lack of a

Premier Health access point for emergency services in Miamisburg and surrounding communities. This new center is designed to provide that access. The same boardcertified emergency medicine providers who staff all Miami Valley Hospital emergency departments will be providing care at this new location, and the fully equipped emergency center will have an integrated connection to all specialty services provided within the Premier Health system. Rapid access to stroke treatment through the Premier Health Telestroke Network also will be available.

The new MVH Austin Boulevard Emergency Center will feature 11 emergency care beds, including two trauma bays, as well as imaging technology, including CT scans and X-rays; lab services; and transportation via CareFlight Air and Mobile Services when needed. Interactive white boards in every patient room represent some of the latest technology available at the new site. The center also will have a community room with a large interactive digital feature that can be used for physician education sessions, EMS training, and by community groups in general. Additionally, a seamless ambulance drop off point will provide EMS agencies with quick access into and out of the facility when transporting patients for emergency care.

Please make sure to look for your invitation to the upcoming open house in September for Premier Health's newest emergency center – we hope you will join us in celebrating the opening of our Austin Boulevard location!



## Premier Health Hospitals Receive National Recognition



U.S. News & World Report has ranked Miami Valley Hospital the top hospital in Southwest Ohio, and fourth among all Ohio hospitals, for a second consecutive year. In the annual rankings released Aug. 14, Miami Valley Hospital also ranked nationally in three adult specialties: pulmonology care (28th); nephrology care (48th); and diabetes and endocrinology care (49th).

Miami Valley Hospital ranked as "high-performing" in 14 additional areas of care: cardiology and heart surgery; gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery; geriatrics; neurology and neurosurgery; orthopedics; urology; aortic valve surgery; heart bypass surgery; heart failure; colon cancer surgery; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); hip replacement; knee replacement; and lung cancer surgery.

Additionally, Miami Valley Hospital and Atrium Medical Center recently earned awards for providing the most appropriate stroke treatment in accordance with nationally recognized guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence, according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

Through the Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup> program, Miami Valley Hospital earned the Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Honor Roll Elite Plus. Atrium Medical Center earned the Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Honor Roll Elite.

Hospitals receiving a Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup> Gold Plus Achievement Award have reached an aggressive goal of treating patients with 85 percent or higher compliance to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association<sup>®</sup> for two consecutive calendar years.

Miami Valley Hospital was the first and is the only hospital in the Dayton region to achieve certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center through the Joint Commission and American Heart/American Stroke Association. Atrium Medical Center is certified as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission and American Heart/American Stroke Association. Premier Health's Upper Valley Medical Center and Miami Valley Hospital South are certified as Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals by the Joint Commission and American Heart/American Stroke Association.







## Hospital Awards; Community Partnerships; Expansion Projects; and More

#### **Atrium Medical Center**



As Atrium Medical Center continues to differentiate its services in the greater Cincinnati area market, part of the hospital's previously shuttered 4 south unit has reopened for services. The 4 south A-pod opened as a dedicated surgical ortho/ spine unit on July 16. The unit will house a dedicated room to be utilized as a gym for therapy purposes, offering convenience to patients and staff. Support of ortho techs, social work/case management, and an advanced practice provider will continue to complement the quality care and service provided to patients.

Approximately 500 people who suffered an overdose in Middletown have been connected to local resources to help fight their addiction since the city of Middletown, Atrium Medical Center, and other community partners collaborated to launch a Quick Response Team in 2016. Now, the Atrium Medical Center Foundation has received a \$60,000 grant from InterAct for Change and the Funders' Response to the Heroin Epidemic (FRHE), a collaboration of private funders dedicated to ending the greater Cincinnati region's opioid and heroin epidemic. The grant will provide funding through 2020 to sustain the Ouick Response Team's operations in Middletown, and the Middletown team will participate in a regional collaborative of Quick Response Teams to share information and lessons learned with other communities. The Middletown Quick Response Team is made up of a paramedic, police officer and social worker. Hospital patients who give consent are contacted by a member of the team

for follow up, sometimes while patients are still in the hospital. Additionally, the Atrium Foundation's most recent annual fundraising campaign, Promise of Hope, which is nearing its \$400,000 goal, will help double the number of intensive care rooms in the hospital's behavioral health unit and provide for a navigator trained in behavioral health to be on Atrium's Emergency Trauma Center team.

Atrium is one of two hospitals in the Cincinnati market that recently received accolades from the American Heart Association. Atrium earned the Mission: Lifeline® Gold Receiving Quality Achievement



Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks. The AHA Mission: Lifeline program's goal is to reduce system barriers to prompt treatment for heart attacks. Atrium earned the award by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for quick and appropriate treatment through emergency procedures. Nationwide, 78 hospitals received the Gold Award, according to the association.

#### **Miami Valley Hospital**

The Miami Valley Hospital South Patient Access Department went live with its first patient kiosk machine, located in Sports Medicine. The kiosk allows patients to check in for their hand and/or physical therapy appointment. The "go live" was very successful, with the kiosk being used by 65 percent of patients on the first day.

Thanks to donor support through the Premier Health Employee Giving Campaign, the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation awarded 153 Mueller Youth Scholarships this year. The \$500 scholarships were available on a competitive basis for posthigh school education. The application process required applicants to submit two essays about philanthropy and community service. Since 1993, more than 2,550 Mueller Youth Scholarships have been awarded to dependent children of Miami Valley Hospital employees. The foundation retained the scholarship's name in honor of the hospital's founder, the Reverend Carl Mueller.

The Valley Golf Classic took place at NCR Country Club on July 30. Coordinated through the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation, proceeds benefit the inpatient diabetes education program at Miami Valley Hospital and Miami Valley Hospital South provided by educators at the Bull Family Diabetes Education Center. John Bull chaired the tournament steering committee for the third consecutive year. Life Connection of Ohio was the lead sponsor for this year's outing. Since its inception in 1990, the Valley Golf Classic has raised more than \$4 million in proceeds for various patient programs and services at Miami Valley Hospital.

As part of the transition to Miami Valley Hospital North, the provision of lab services at the site went from a hospital-based service to CompuNet Clinical Laboratories, which also runs the lab operations at other Miami Valley Hospital sites. This new location for CompuNet will replace the company's current location at 5 W. Wenger Road in Englewood. Lab services on the hospital campus at 9000 N. Main St. in Englewood have moved from the first floor to Suite 303 on the third floor.

The Maternity Center at Miami Valley Hospital received a Caring Cradle donated in memory of Lincoln Matthew Herman, a baby boy who was born stillborn on April 13, 2018. A Caring Cradle gives a family the gift of time after the loss of a baby, allowing a family days with their baby rather than mere hours—uninterrupted time to care for the baby, dress him or her, take photos,



and make memories, which is crucial to the grieving process for mothers, fathers, and their families. The Caring Cradle was donated by Dr. David and Lauren Herman in memory of their son. The Hermans were so grateful for the care they received at Miami Valley Hospital South, as well as the availability of the Caring Cradle on the South campus.

#### **Upper Valley Medical Center**

Upper Valley Medical Center hosted a ribbon cutting and open house (*pictured right top*) July 30 for the newly expanded cardiac catheterization laboratory, which now provides important Level II capabilities with availability of interventional cardiologists. With this expansion, the cath lab can provide angioplasty and many types of stents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Diagnostic catheterizations will still be available, as well as insertion of pacemakers and defibrillators.

An open house was hosted July 24 for the newly renovated rehabilitation services suite encompassing the third floor of the UVMC Outpatient Care Center North in Piqua (*picture right bottom*). The project added nearly 1,900 square feet to house outpatient physical therapy, previously located on the first floor, and occupational therapy, previously on the second floor. Outpatient rehabilitation volume has grown significantly since the facility opened in 1994, with a 70 percent increase in physical therapy and a 40 percent increase in occupational therapy.

A Parkinson's disease seminar – "Your Life with Parkinson's Disease" – was hosted for the community on July 25 at UVMC. About 75 individuals attended the program, which featured neurologists Rabindra Kitchener, MD, and Lois Krousgrill, MD.

"UVMC Rocks!" was launched at the hospital campus and satellites in July. UVMC management and Future Leaders launched this fun, spirit-filled initiative to showcase Premier Health pride at UVMC. The initiative, which will continue through the summer, features rocks painted with bright colors and motivational messages that are placed randomly for staff and visitors to find. UVMC management and Future Leaders also paired up to host a UVMC Community Service Day on July 18, assisting with a variety of tasks at the Bethany Center Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in Piqua; Needy Basket Food Pantry in Tipp City; and Miami County YMCA in Troy.

The UVMC Diversity Committee presented a quarterly Celebrating Diverse Cultures program on July 10. Dr. Rashmi Bolinjkar hosted the "A Taste of India" event, which featured Indian history, culture, and food sampling. More than 100 employees, physicians, and volunteers attended.





## Oncology Nurse Navigators Contribute to Multidisciplinary Approach

Cancer care can be complex and, at times, overwhelming. Premier Health's oncology nurse navigators are nurses specially trained in oncology care who can use their in-depth knowledge of health care to help patients navigate through cancer treatment and survivorship. Oncology nurse navigators are knowledgeable about the best practices in cancer care and contribute to a multidisciplinary approach to fight cancer. They also are knowledgeable about resources available to cancer patients and their families.

Our oncology nurse navigators work with your patients to educate them on disease processes, treatments, and expected signs/symptoms; act as a single point of contact to coordinate communication among providers; overcome barriers of care (transportation, finances, appointment scheduling, etc.); and facilitate referrals for cancer resources and services at the hospital and in the community.

#### Oncology nurse navigators support clinical providers by:

- Documenting and communicating treatment recommendations made at cancer conferences for physicians
- Working across disciplines to ensure timely appointments, results reporting, communication, and patient follow-up
- Providing community education to increase participation in prevention and screening programs
- Monitoring appropriate diagnostic procedures for positive pathologies to identify new patients
- Proactively developing collaborative relationships
- Being experts in national clinical practice guidelines and standards of care for specific cancers



#### Premier Health Oncology Nurse Navigators

#### **Atrium Medical Center**



Phyllis Rudokas, BS, RN, OCN, CBCN, CTTS Clinical Specialty: Breast, Lung, Brain, Leukemia, Myeloma, Mesothelioma (513) 974-4707 parudokas@premierhealth.com



Terri Wilson, RN, OCN Clinical Specialty: Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary, Head and Neck, Endocrine, Lymphoma, Bone, Skin (513) 974-4062 tkwilson@premierhealth.com

#### Miami Valley Hospital and Miami Valley Hospital South



Nancy Hampton-Jones, MS, APRN, AOCNS, AGCNS-BCCN Clinical Specialty: Neuro (937) 208-4489 njhamptonj@premierhealth.com



Kathryn Haught, MSN, RN Clinical Specialty: Gastrointestinal (937) 2438-3839 kjhaught2@premierhealth.com



Amy McKenna, BSN, RN Clinical Specialty: Lung (937) 208-4926 armckenna@premierhealth.com



Nancy Thoma, BSN, RN, OCN Clinical Specialty: Breast (937) 208-2743 nathoma@premierhealth.com

#### **Miami Valley Hospital North**



Laura Reed, BSN, RN Clinical Specialty: Breast (937) 734-6117 Isreed@premierhealth.com



Diane Tousignant, BSN, RN Clinical Specialty: Lung (937) 734-5844 dmtousignant@premierhealth.com

#### **Upper Valley Medical Center**



Heather Penwell, BSN, RN Clinical Specialty: Breast, Lung, other (937) 440-4822 hmpenwell@premierhealth.com



Caitlin Conaway, MSN, RN Clinical Specialty: Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary, other (937) 440-4819 ccconaway@premierhealth.com

### Premier Health Medical Marijuana Survey Coming Next Month

Patients under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal representative as a caregiver. A person must be 21 years of age to serve as a caregiver unless that person serves as the caregiver for his/ her minor child, in which case, the person must be 18. A patient can have up to two caregivers, and each caregiver can have up to two patients.

House Bill 523 does not require an employer to permit or accommodate an employee's use, possession, or distribution of medical marijuana. It also does not prohibit an employer from establishing and enforcing a drug testing policy, a drug-free workplace policy, or a zero-tolerance drug policy.

A recent article in the Cincinnati Enquirer stated that fewer than 200 of Ohio's 46,000 doctors have completed the training course and submitted the necessary paperwork to obtain a certificate to recommend medical marijuana. The article cited a recent Medical Board survey that showed slightly more than 40 percent of Ohio's doctors were not likely to recommend medical marijuana, while more than 30 percent of doctors said they would consider it.

Hospital systems across the state are developing policies and procedures addressing medical marijuana. Since most hospitals receive taxpayer dollars for research and patient care from Medicaid and Medicare, there is concern that allowing a federally banned drug into hospitals receiving such funding could place these dollars at risk. Many systems hope state officials or other large leading health care agencies will clarify the regulations or provide guidance statements. Nationally, there is great variation in the reaction of health care organizations in states where medical marijuana is approved. Many systems are adhering strictly to federal law, despite state approval, to ban both recreational and medicinal marijuana from facilities. Other systems have embraced medical marijuana and have provided on-site physician and provider education, offered patients portable hotel-style safes to store medical marijuana brought in from home, and operationalized policies and procedures to fully incorporate medical marijuana into office and hospital settings.

Due to current uncertain risks involving CMS reimbursement and the evolving nature of the rules and regulations around the legalization of medical marijuana in Ohio, Premier Health for now is adopting a conservative approach, as have other health care providers across the state. This approach prohibits the use of medical marijuana in inpatient settings. Physicians practicing in an outpatient setting who have obtained a certificate to recommend in accordance with Ohio law will be able to recommend the use of medical marijuana. Premier Health's stance will remain in place while we solicit input from key stakeholders and continue to explore how the many issues associated with medical marijuana will be addressed across our system.

In early September, you will receive a short survey via email. I sincerely hope that you will take the time to respond and provide your feedback. The subject is controversial, and it is critical that we understand the opinions and wishes of our physicians and providers in determining the right course for Premier Health.

## CORRECTION: Upper Valley Cancer CME Set for Wednesday, Sept. 19

The July issue of Pulse previously advertised that there would be a "Revolutions in Treatment Interventions of Breast Cancer" CME event at Upper Valley Medical Center on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 18. **The correct date of the event is Wednesday, September 19; not Sept. 18.** 

The previously advertised date of the "Revolutions in Treatment Interventions of Breast Cancer" CME event at Atrium Medical Center – Thursday, Sept. 13 – is correct.

A third cancer CME event, "Innovations in Immunotherapy – Melanoma" remains scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Dayton Masonic Center from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration information for all three events is available online at **premierhealth.com/CancerSeminars**, or by calling **(866) 608-3463**.

### Our New Physicians

New physicians routinely join the medical staff at each of Premier Health's hospitals. Are you interested in knowing who joined the medical staff at each facility? You can find lists of new physicians here:

**Atrium Medical Center** go to *atriummedcenter.org/ournewphysicians* **Miami Valley Hospital** go to *miamivalleyhospital/ournewphysicians* **Upper Valley Medical Center** go to *uvmc.com/ournewphysicians* 

Editorial Board: Dr. Marc Belcastro, Dr. Jennifer Hauler, Dr. Scott Kanagy, Dr. Matthew Reeves Chief Consumer Officer: Chris Butler; Director, System Communications: Ben Sutherly; Editor: Sarah Zoellick

