

# Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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## With Patients, When Isn't Effective Communication Essential?

By Andre Harris, MD, chief medical officer, Atrium Medical Center



My wife smirked at me when I told her that I was going to write on communication. Rightfully so, because at times my ability to communicate with

her can be less than stellar. The question is, Can we afford for our communication to be “less than stellar” when it comes to the lives of our patients? Is there ever a time when it is acceptable to not communicate effectively when you are caring for a patient?

In my short tenure as CMO of Atrium Medical Center, I have seen that effective communication cannot be replaced when it comes to patient care. In the age of texting and social media, we sometimes mistake

written documentation as equivalent to face-to-face communication. Too many times, we pass on information, through our nursing staff, that deserves (at the very least) a provider-to-provider phone call. The nuances of body language, facial expressions, and eye contact cannot be conveyed through a text or a hashtag. The sobering part is that patients expect that effective communication is standard for anyone involved in their medical care.

Here are four keys to effective communication that I think will carry our system to a higher level (Helpguide.org, Lawrence Robinson et. al, June 2018):

- Become an engaged listener: Too many times we are distracted and are not giving our full attention to the person speaking

to us. In the world of fast-paced medical care, this fragmented listening can lead to bad patient outcomes

- Pay attention to nonverbal signals: Sometimes it is more of what the patient is not saying that tells more of the story. The ability to listen with your eyes will fill in some of the words that are not being said.
- Keep stress in check: In my mind I see a busy practice, ED, or difficult surgical procedure that would hinder the ability of effective communication going forward. Stressful times tend to subvert clear and concise communication. In these situations, it is best to pause, be deliberate about a single thought, and speak clearly.

*Continued on back*

# Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists Recognized for Clinical Excellence

By Lori Scalise, vice president of service integration, women's and cancer services



Premier Health and its referring hospitals are extremely fortunate to have Perinatal Partners and its internationally recognized clinical excellence in our community. These providers deliver exceptional care to women with complicated high-risk pregnancies. Our Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) team is heavily involved in some of the latest research, clinical

trials, and education.

Our specialists have developed very close partnerships with obstetrician-gynecologists and hospitals across the 16-county region with one goal in mind – to collaborate and co-manage high-risk pregnancies to help prevent pre-term births and manage conditions that can contribute to high-risk pregnancies. We have expanded access for patients and now have six locations across the region: Miami Valley Hospital Maternal Fetal Medicine Ultrasound and Genetics; Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville; and in Vandalia, Middletown, Mason, and Piqua.

Recently, Miami Valley Hospital Maternal Fetal Medicine Ultrasound and Genetics received an ultrasound practice accreditation through the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), a stringent peer-reviewed process that allows practices to demonstrate that they meet or exceed nationally recognized standards in the performance and interpretation of diagnostic ultrasound examinations. Furthermore, two of our MFM specialists (Dr. Jiri Sonek and Dr. Adam Hiatt) are certified to perform a specific ovarian tumor ultrasound analysis referred to as International Ovarian Tumor Analysis (IOTA). Very few physicians in the United States have gone through this international certification.

Our team has developed the following programs and specialty services for your patients that are co-managed with the referring provider:

**Diabetes in Pregnancy Program** – a multidisciplinary program providing comprehensive care for moms with diabetes prior to pregnancy, as well as moms who develop diabetes during pregnancy.

**Fetal to Newborn Care Center** – a collaboration between Miami Valley Hospital Maternal Fetal Medicine and Dayton Children's Hospital Pediatric Specialists, which provides a seamless continuum of care for women facing a fetal diagnosis requiring coordinated care through our nurse navigator.

**Promise to Hope Program** – An MVH Foundation-funded comprehensive program that provides medical assisted treatment for addicted moms and withdrawal treatment for their babies.

**Multiple Miracles Program** – will specifically address the needs of patients with multiple gestations

**Preeclampsia Screening** – our specialists were involved with the latest research which shows that early screening in the first trimester helps detect women who may be at risk. The goal is treating proactively to delay the onset of preeclampsia.

## Genetic Counseling and Testing Ultrasound Testing and Screening

- First Trimester Screening
- Second Trimester Screening
- Gynecologic Ultrasounds
- International Ovarian Tumor Analysis (IOTA)

## Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS), Amniocentesis Fetal Monitoring/Non-Stress Test

To make a referral to a Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist, please call:

- Miami Valley Maternal Fetal Medicine Ultrasound and Genetics: **(937) 208-2516**
- Miami Valley Hospital South MFMUG: **(937) 424-9800**
- Vandalia MFMUG: **(937) 387-0930**
- Mason, Middletown, or Piqua offices: **(937) 439-0842**

**Note to providers: Please remind your patients to get their annual mammograms.**

## Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists

Christopher Croom, MD,

Jiri Sonek, MD

David McKenna, MD

Melanie Glover, MD

Samantha Wiegand, MD

Adam Hiatt, MD

# Blood Drive Success, NICU Wins, and Breaking Ground

## Atrium Medical Center

New leadership has joined Atrium Medical Center. Jeanna Severt has assumed the role of human resources director at Atrium after the retirement of Do Perry. Jeanna had been the HR director for the Premier Physician Network since 1999. Jeanna will report to Stacey Lawson, VP of HR Operations, with a matrix reporting relationship to Dr. Keith Bricking, president of Atrium Medical Center.

The marketing department hosted a VIP Scrub Top Tour of the hospital for local education and nonprofit leaders. The evening event took these leaders behind the scenes of hospital areas not typically seen by the public. Atrium COO and CNO Marquita Turner provided an update on hospital operations and services before groups toured the Cancer Center, Surgery Center, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation floor, the Senior Emergency Department and Emergency Trauma Center, and the Wound Care Center.

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses in one of Atrium's key communities, held its September luncheon meeting at the hospital. Dr. Keith Bricking was the featured speaker, answering questions and providing an update on hospital operations and services.

An estimated 400 people participated in the Butler/Warren County Heart Walk along the hospital's walking trail. More than \$77,000

was raised from all teams, including Atrium Medical Center, whose employees helped the hospital beat its fundraising goal of \$25,000. Local media as well as Cincinnati newspaper and television media provided coverage of the event.

The Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce presented Atrium with the Friends of Education Award during the chamber's annual awards dinner. The award is in recognition of the hospital's efforts to expose students to health care careers. Local high schools, including Lebanon, Kings, Mason, Middletown, Monroe and Franklin, will be touring Atrium over the next month to learn more about careers in health care.

More than 500 Atrium staff members attended a Premier Healthy Living employee health fair. During the event, attendees scheduled mammograms; Premier Community Health administered flu shots; and T-shirt sales raised money for the Friends in Need (FIN) Fund at Atrium Medical Center Foundation.

Dr. Brandon Bell, who recently joined Monroe Medical Center, partnered with hospital representatives to promote his practice prior to Monroe High School's first home football game of the season. Atrium has also promoted services at Middletown, Franklin and Madison high school football games this season.





### Miami Valley Hospital

In recognition of September as Sepsis Awareness Month, Premier Health on Sept. 17 hosted “Sepsis Symposium 2019: Managing Sepsis Through the Continuum of Care—pre-hospital to post-discharge.” The event featured **Dr. Randy Marriott**, Medical Director EMS Center of Excellence.



Premier Health on Sept. 10 hosted a free joint pain seminar on hip and knee pain to include information on a variety of joint health topics, such as innovative surgical and non-surgical treatment options to help restore mobility and reduce pain caused by arthritis and other conditions. The evening included a presentation, open forum panel discussion, and Q&A session with our specialists, **Mathew Lawless, MD**, orthopedic surgeon, and **Scott Johnson, PT**, physical therapist.



*Champions of Hope* honored four remarkable individuals in the fight against cancer in September. Hosted by the MVH Foundation, proceeds from this event expand and enhance integrative therapy programs for MVH oncology patients. The 2019 honorees are:

**Person Of Inspiration - Christine N. Broomhall, RN, MS, BSN**

**Cancer Caregiver - Pamela M. Madden, CNMMS**

**Cancer Survivor - Willis “Bing” Davis**

**Medical Professional - Elizabeth A. “Beth” Delaney, DNP, CNS, FNP-BC, OCN, ACHPN**

Presented by Premier Healthy Living, the Miami Valley Hospital Employee Health Fair took place in September. This event provided many internal and external health and wellness vendors, flu shots, and raffle prizes. Employees were able to earn Healthy Living points.

A community tailgate event marked the first anniversary of Miami Valley Hospital’s free-standing emergency center in Miamisburg on Sunday, Sept. 29. With quick access from Interstate 75, the Austin Boulevard Emergency Center provides full-service, 24-hour emergency care to patients with minor to severe injuries and conditions. Free flu vaccines were available during the tailgate event, and community members will be treated to tailgate-style food, costumed characters for children (including McGruff the Crime Dog), games and giveaways. Emergency vehicles, including CareFlight Air and Mobile Services, were



on hand and everyone was able to meet physicians and staff. The Austin Boulevard Emergency Center features 12 emergency beds, including two trauma bays. It is staffed by board-certified emergency medicine physicians from Miami Valley Hospital.

Miami Valley Hospital's Level 1 Trauma Center held its annual trauma survivors celebration on Sept. 10. Five trauma patients, all of whom were treated at the hospital, were recognized for overcoming tremendous odds on their journey to recovery. The honorees included:

**Mike Ashton**, an avid dirt bike racer, who during a race hit a guardrail, skipped and injured the side of his chest, leaving him with serious rib injuries.

**Chris Boykin**, who was involved in a single car accident and had to be extricated from his mangled car.

**Shane Homan**, JV football player from Coldwater who was running with the ball, got tackled and sustained injuries.

**Angela McCane**, who was a passenger in a car accident where the car also caught on fire, with Angela trapped inside.

**Jessica Roberts**, who was attacked with a knife by someone she thought she could trust. She managed to get away and eventually was transported via CareFlight to Miami Valley Hospital. Also recognized were first responders involved in the Memorial Day tornadoes and the mass shooting incident in the Oregon District.

## Upper Valley Medical Center

Ray Phillips has been named to the new position of director of security for the UVMC Department of Public Safety. Ray was director of campus police for Good Samaritan Hospital from 2011 through 2018 and has been assisting with the UVMC Security Department this year. Under his leadership, UVMC will transition over the next year to a department of public safety staffed by trained, armed security specialists with a service-oriented focus. The security team will emphasize being visible and proactive, and these specialists will receive training through the Ohio Police Officers Training Academy along with additional training in verbal de-escalation skills.

From Sept. 24 through 26, UVMC completed a survey with TiER1 Performance Solutions (COMPASS Clinical Consulting) to help uncover potential gaps in processes, safety, and patient care as well as keep current on regulatory changes to prepare for successful surveys. The surveyors identified areas to be addressed to achieve best practices and spoke very highly of the staff and team for being very interactive with process discussions and collaboration.

UVMC/Premier Health was signature sponsor of the Go Red for Women/North Luncheon and Wellness Fair Sept. 5 at the Fort Piqua Plaza. Hosted in conjunction with the American Heart Association, the event was attended by approximately 200 participants. UVMC professionals provided



free health screenings, wellness counseling, education, and handouts.

UVMC/Premier was presenting sponsor of the first Troy PorchFest hosted by Troy-Hayner Cultural Center on Sept. 14 in Troy's Southwest Historic District. This new community event – featuring porch performances by 36 local bands, an artisan village, student recitals, sponsor tents and food vendors – drew an estimated crowd of more than 1,000 attendees.

UVMC managers provided seven interactive booths at the first “Made In Miami County” Expo Sept. 24 at the Miami County Fairgrounds. The event, hosted by the Troy Chamber of Commerce and Troy Development Council, was held for all 8th grade students in Miami County schools to provide career education and an opportunity to interact with professionals in a variety of employment fields.

A free PSA Prostate Cancer Screening was provided Sept. 23 and Sept. 30 at the UVMC Cancer Care Center. The two-part event, provided in conjunction with **Dr. Robert Kohut** of Premier Health Urology in Troy, included a blood draw for PSA test followed by physician consult.



The UVMC Diversity Committee hosted a quarterly *Celebrating Diverse Cultures* event for the UVMC family Sept. 17 in the hospital cafeteria. The event, presented as part of Premier Health

Hispanic Heritage Month, featured an educational presentation on Cuba by **Dr. Julio Soto** followed by a tasting of Cuban cuisine and culture.



# Premier Health First in Southwest Ohio to Use Bioconvertible Filters

Premier Health patients who undergo surgical procedures and must stop taking blood thinners that they usually count on to dissolve blood clots in their legs now have an alternative.

For those individuals, a new device can be placed in the inferior vena cava (IVC) vein, the large vein that travels toward the heart, for protection during the time they need to be off blood thinning medication. The filter helps to prevent a life-threatening pulmonary embolism by blocking clots from reaching the heart and lungs.

The drawback to conventional filters is that, over time, the filters can clog and potentially cause complications. A typical IVC filter requires a second procedure three to six months later to remove the filter.

New bioconvertible IVC filters eliminate the need for a second procedure to remove the filter. "There are bioabsorbable struts forming the filter that after three to four months dissolve, allowing the ring to open up and become a cylinder," said M. Atiq Khalid, MD, FACP, FACC, FSCAI, interventional cardiologist with Middletown Cardiology Associates. "Eliminating the need to go back into the vein to remove a filter is a tremendous benefit to the patient and reduces the possibility of some complications."

The BTG Sentry Bioconvertible IVC Filter is designed to provide immediate protection against pulmonary embolism (PE) in patients at risk for the condition. Using image guidance, a catheter is inserted through the skin into a large vein in the neck or upper leg and advanced to the inferior vena cava vein. The IVC filter is then placed through the catheter into the vein.

"Dr. Khalid is the first in Southwest Ohio to utilize these new bioconvertible filters," said Keith Bricking, MD, president of Atrium Medical Center. "We are proud to support our skilled physicians who are making a difference in our patients' lives."



## Physician Leader Launches Video Series on Patient Experience



Have you seen the new video series written and produced by Marc Belcastro, DO, chief medical officer and vice president of operations at Miami Valley Hospital? Dr. Belcastro has a passion for education about the patient experience. Check out his first three videos:

**Video #1 - *Dr. B's Moments*:** [https://youtu.be/P\\_aS1ohU334](https://youtu.be/P_aS1ohU334)

**Video #2 - *The Introduction*:** [https://youtu.be/fPDocTC\\_Dzg](https://youtu.be/fPDocTC_Dzg)

**Video #3 - *Acknowledge*:** <https://youtu.be/8k3aS52Z9RQ>

# Head and Neck Cancer Physician Loves Cooking, Vacationing in Iceland



**Sameep Kadakia, MD,** sees patients at Premier ENT Associates.

**What is your clinical specialty?**

I specialize in advanced head and neck surgical oncology/facial plastic and microvascular

reconstructive surgery.

**Where did you go to school?**

Undergrad – Drexel University  
 Med school – Drexel University College of Medicine  
 Residency – New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai  
 Fellowship – Baylor Medical Center in Texas

**What brought you to Premier Health?**

The Dayton area is a good place to raise family with kind people and is centrally located. I found it to be a great work opportunity with potential to provide a service to the community that has not existed in this area for more than 15 years.

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

I loved the idea of interfacing a knowledge base with a complex skill set in the context of our human life and how intimately it is affected by pathology. Medicine is a large opportunity to make a positive impact in people’s lives, whether it be by improving quality of life or potentially prolonging life depending on the pathology treated. I also enjoy that the field of medicine is constantly evolving and presenting new challenges, so we never stop learning.

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

My mother has been one of the greatest influences in my life, always supporting me and motivating me to do good. My wife has always pushed me to excel beyond the routine and ordinary and has always seen potential in me and pushed me to do not what is easy but what is fulfilling. My fellow-

ship director, Dr. Yadro Ducic, taught me everything I currently practice about surgery – offering a unique perspective on treating patients, teaching me how to be a better human being and better doctor, showing me how to balance life and work while keeping a steady mindset, and teaching me how to handle challenging situations without becoming distraught.

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

I have a deep love for cooking. While I don’t get to do it often, I really enjoy making multi-course meals for family and friends. I think it brings about creativity and allows one to explore, and I find great satisfaction in creating an experience out of a satisfying meal. I really enjoy the cooking and garnishing component because food that tastes and looks appealing makes for a unique experience.



**Where is your hometown?**

I was born in Memphis, Tennessee, but my parents live in Chester Springs, Pa., so currently that is where I consider home.

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

Memphis Grizzlies basketball and Tennessee Titan football

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

“Life on the Line: A Chef’s Story of Chasing Greatness, Facing Death, and Redefining the Way We Eat” by Grant Achatz and Nick Kokonas, a biography of Chef Grant Achatz

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

Don’t have a favorite; love many kinds of music

**What is your favorite food?**

I love Indian food, Mexican food, sandwiches, and ice cream.

**What is your favorite hobby?**

I love music, both listening and singing. I was a trained singer when I was younger. I also love traveling, exercising, spending time with my wife and little girl, and cooking multi-course meals.

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

So far, Iceland. It is an amazing combination of natural landscapes that challenge my understanding of what is possible in nature – a great vacation combo of sightseeing, excursions, and relaxation. It brings out the explorer in me!

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

I am grateful and honored to be married to my wife, Devi – my support, motivation, and inspiration behind everything I do in life.

**Pick a side**

**iPhone or Android?**

iPhone

**Early bird or night owl?**

Early bird

**Beach bum or mountain hiker?**

Hiker

**Dress shoes or tennis shoes?**

Dress shoes

**Paperback or e-reader?**

Paperback

**Coffee or tea?**

Coffee

**Cooking or baking?**

Cooking

**Sweet or salty?**

Sweet

# Miami Valley Hospital Is First in World to Integrate Two Stroke Technologies

Miami Valley Hospital is the first site in the world to use the combination of a specific software application and mobile platform to enhance the treatment used to preserve a patient's neurological function after a stroke.

While many hospitals use both applications – Pulsara and RAPID – in their stroke care, none have taken the step to combine their capabilities into one, said John Terry, MD, director of inpatient stroke care at Miami Valley Hospital. Pulsara, a mobile platform, was developed by physicians to improve coordination and communication essential for stroke patient assessment. RAPID is a global leader in advanced imaging.

The hospital adopted the Pulsara application in 2017 to enhance the communication among members of a stroke response team, which can be as large as 60 individuals. The cloud-based, mobile communication application places all members of the hospital's stroke team – EMS providers, neurologists, CT technologists, nurses, and consulting physicians – on alert and keeps them up-to-date on a case with one tap of the app.

This past year, the hospital added RAPID as another vital tool. RAPID is a software platform that uses artificial intelligence to process critical imaging information from a stroke victim. The software shortens to five minutes a data interpretation process that has traditionally taken an imaging technologist 20 minutes. On top of faster imaging results, RAPID's enhanced level of analysis also

provides greater information about a patient's condition, such as the extent of changes in blood flow to the brain.

Stroke physicians such as Dr. Terry and his colleague, Esteban Cheng-Ching, MD, use the combined information produced by RAPID and pushed out through Pulsara to make critical decisions, such as when it is safe to remove a blood clot, and when and if clot-busting medication can be used.

The ability to know details such as the current blood flow into the stroke victim's affected brain tissue can be the difference between a lifetime of debilitation or many more years of normal function, said Dr. Cheng-Ching, who serves as a neurointerventionalist at the stroke center.

Several local agencies currently use Pulsara, including fire and/or EMS departments in Dayton, Riverside, Jefferson Township, Huber Heights, and Tipp City.

Miami Valley Hospital – which is also using the applications at Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville – is still collecting data on its use over the past couple of months. However, experience has already shown the benefits the two applications can create when used as one, said Shelly Reynolds, CNS, stroke program manager at the hospital.

"The way we are doing things here is really going to guide how this is going to go across the country and around the world," Reynolds said





# Culture of Safety Goes Beyond Search for “Culprit”

By Tarek M. Sabagh, MD, MHSA



An organization’s culture is the bond that holds the employees together and influences their behavior. Culture is manifested in both external and internal interactions. One

example: how a culture of being patient friendly encompasses both external and internal components. In such a culture, physicians will go the extra mile to help a patient/customer, be it on the phone, in person, or communicating with another physician for the purpose of helping their patients.

Consider a culture of safety; yes, safety is woven into culture. This has been shown difficult to instill and requires courageous leaders to champion such a cause. Physicians should own the culture of safety as our

administrative leaders change periodically. If we promote this culture, new physicians coming on staff will soon learn what is expected of them and what is unacceptable. “Health careers are not specially error prone, it’s just that their business is extremely error-provoking. The problem is not helped by a medical culture that equates error with incompetence” (Reason, J, 2008). I believe this quote accurately summarizes our culture as physicians, in which patient safety lives.

The ideal safety culture is the foundation of High Reliability Organizations (HRO). The hallmark of such organizations is the acknowledgment that their business is error prone, staff are trained to expect errors, and continually work to resolve them. Training and practice are ongoing so the team is ready to tackle a problem when they see it. It also highlights switching the focus from the individual “sharp point” to the system. An error, that on the surface appears to be human failure, almost always could have been prevented if there were several

layers of checks and balances. At one time, I personally focused on the individual, leading any inquiry to identify the “culprit.” To some extent, we were trained this way, that error equates to personal failure.

I also framed patient safety in a very limited way. As a physician, I believed it was only important that I make the right diagnosis, order the right test, and prescribe the right medication. I now recognize that all of the above are just one link in the patient being treated safely. For example, if the patient is not given clear instructions on how to take the medication at discharge, prescribing the correct medication matters little.

I am proud to be serving in the role of your medical staff president and encourage you to continue leading our hospital on this culture of safety journey, one patient at a time, one day at a time.

*Reason, J. (2008). The human contribution: Unsafe acts, accidents and heroic recoveries. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company.*

## Digital Campus Maps Provide Interactive Wayfinding

Digital campus maps are now available to help patients, visitors and employees navigate their way to any location within Premier Health hospitals and System Support. Campus maps provide interactive wayfinding that is searchable, linkable and user-friendly on any smartphone, tablet or computer. The maps are web-based, so all you need is an internet connection to access them – there is nothing to download or purchase.

Visit use [mazemap.com](http://mazemap.com) and see for yourself how easy it is. Under locations, select “Premier Health” and then select a facility. Zoom, search, scale the floors.

Digital campus maps can also be accessed from [premierhealth.com](http://premierhealth.com) under Location Information on each hospital’s landing page.

A kiosk featuring digital campus maps is being tested in the lobby of Miami Valley Hospital North. Kiosks may be installed at other Premier Health locations based on the success of this trial.

Questions or suggestions should be sent to [jumfisher@premierhealth.com](mailto:jumfisher@premierhealth.com).



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Easier to navigate the hospital and locate a destination
- Prior to a hospital visit, find the best place to park and the best route to take
- Find cafeterias, coffee, gift shops and other amenities, such as ATMs and vending machines, while at the hospital
- Search by room number or unit name
- Wheelchair accessible routes are available
- Share directions with family and friends



## Premier Health Named One of Area's Healthiest Employers



For the sixth consecutive year, Premier Health was named one of the top healthiest employers in Dayton, as awarded by the Dayton Business Journal.

Healthiest Employers is an awards program to recognize employers that proactively shape the health of their employees.

The companies taking part have made a commitment to positively affect the health of their workforce.

Premier Health is dedicated to creating a work culture where employee health and safety are valued, supported, and promoted. When employees are empowered with tools

to live healthier lives, they are enabled to not only better serve their communities but also increase their personal satisfaction.

## Dangers of Vaping Becoming Evident



E-cigarettes (vaping) contain harmful, toxic chemicals that can affect developing brains and cause users to become addicted to nicotine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that "specific substances within e-cigarette products can cause illnesses that are not known and could involve a variety of substances." Premier Health and Dayton Children's Hospital are creating patient education flyers for physician offices to hand out to patients when needed.

How can I help my patients? In 2018, 21 percent of high school students reported

vaping within the last 30 days, and that number is increasing. During appointments with your patients, including pregnant women, ask them about vaping, and counsel them about the dangers of vaping.

For more information: Visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) or [app.org](http://app.org) and search for "vaping"

Information based on articles from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Kids Health, and the New England Journal of Medicine

# Advanced Treatment Options for Unruptured and Ruptured Intracranial Aneurysms



Premier Health's neurointerventional team provides a complete spectrum of minimally invasive services for patients with vascular diseases of the brain and the spine. These minimally invasive techniques allow surgeons to navigate and to treat abnormalities such as ruptured and unruptured intracranial aneurysms (UIAs). With the high rate of success of endovascular surgery, this method for management is now more common than open surgery due to better outcomes and decreased hospital stays.

Neurointerventionalists have effectively provided advanced treatment options for aneurysm repair including:

- Aneurysm treatment coiling
- Flow-diversion Pipeline™ procedure
- Woven EndoBridge (WEB) Aneurysm Embolization

With the advancement of imaging technology and techniques, many unruptured aneurysms are found incidentally during tests to screen for other conditions. Unruptured aneurysms can also be discovered at the time a ruptured aneurysm is diagnosed. This is not uncommon, as one in five people diagnosed with an aneurysm has more than one (Brain Aneurysm Foundation).

Indications for immediate treatment of an UIA should be offered for:

- All large and giant aneurysms
- All posterior circulation aneurysms
- Any aneurysm that is expanding in size
- With rare exceptions, all symptomatic unruptured aneurysms should be treated.

Factors to consider in making treatment recommendations include:

- The size, location, and overall appearance of the aneurysm
- Age and general health
- Congenital conditions that increase the risk of a ruptured aneurysm
- Anatomic variations within brain arteries
- Family history/familial aneurysms where two or more first degree relatives were diagnosed
- Family history of ruptured aneurysm
- Presence of multiple aneurysms
- Smoking
- Drug and alcohol use

Other important factors to consider for treatment of UIA:

- Patients younger than 60 years of age with aneurysms larger than 5 mm should be offered treatment.
- Large, incidental aneurysms larger than 10 mm should be treated in nearly all patients younger than 70 years of age.



## Our Team

**Esteban Cheng-Ching, MD**  
Neurointerventional Surgery  
Vascular Neurology



**Bryan Ludwig, MD**  
Neurointerventional Surgery  
Vascular Neurology  
Chair, Clinical Neuroscience Institute



**John Terry, MD**  
Neurointerventional Surgery  
Neurocritical Care  
Vascular Neurology  
Director, Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit  
Medical Co-director,  
Comprehensive Stroke Center

**Neurointerventionalists provide 24/7/364 emergent care and routine office hours and consultations.**



For additional information or to refer a new patient, please call **(844) 277-2894**.

Epic users can refer patients by searching "neurointerventional."

Access and Transfer Center  
(for inpatient or ED transfers): **(937) 208-2340**

# 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. Cheron** (OB doctor) was fantastic when we got there. We did not have good news, but she told us the truth, bad parts included, and she was very comforting, and you could tell she cared. She visited us over the next several days and was one of our favorite doctors.

My care was exceptional – **Dr. Duketsh** was very helpful.

**Dr. Guy** was a godsend for our difficult pregnancy.

**Dr. Hayes** is an exceptionally excellent doctor. Very pleased with his time, attention, and explanations.

**Dr. Hirth** gave great care and was great with my husband and myself! Thanks to all!!!

My mom was admitted through the ER. Her care there, and subsequently, was wonderful. **Dr. Manus** was especially wonderful and attentive.

I appreciated everyone who had hand in my recovery. I especially want to thank and say “God bless” to **Dr. Mehans** and his whole medical team for saving my life. I’ll never forget what he’s done for me.

The nurses and **Dr. Nguyen** were fantastic! I received exceptional care.

I would like to thank **Dr. Ouellette** for saving my life. Thank you.

**Dr. Patel** was great. I very much appreciated his care.

Thankful for the amazing team that helped me, especially **Dr. Perry** and my nurse.

There were some complications during my labor and delivery experience, but the L&D team was excellent and acted very quickly to keep my baby and I safe. **Dr. Anderson Smith** was excellent in helping me deliver my baby girl.

**Dr. Lisa Stone** – excellent doctor.

**Dr. JT Thomas** was my OB, and I highly recommend him, as he took excellent care of my baby.

My nurse and **Dr. Wood** were fantastic to work with!



## National PA Week

October 6-12

## AMC/UVMC Labs Transitioning to CompuNet December 22

### What you need to know now!

The CompuNet Clinical Laboratories’ account management team will be visiting physician offices over the next two months to introduce themselves and discuss our onboarding process. The CompuNet account managers will answer questions you may have and provide your office with everything needed to ensure a successful transition to CompuNet lab services.

The CompuNet account managers are Bethany Diller, Cheryl Heffner, Pam Moore, and Robin Allen.

If you have questions or have not been contacted by an account manager by Friday, Nov. 29, please contact Katrina St. Clair, sales operations manager, at **(937) 297-8278**.

*Continued from front*

## With Patients, When Isn’t Effective Communication Essential?

- Assert yourself: To relay a thought effectively, sometimes it is necessary to grab the attention of your listener; patient safety is on the line. Asserting yourself doesn’t mean behaving rudely, but it does require that you share your thoughts deliberately.

Lastly the most important aspect of communication is just that... communication. The fact that you are speaking does not mean that the person is hearing (receiving) what is being said. The goal of communication is not just to hear yourself speak but to relay a pertinent idea that can be received by someone else. We help our patients thrive when all of us – physicians, nursing, EVS, nutrition, PT, radiology – learn how to effectively communicate.

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