

# Premier Pulse

## News for Premier Health Physicians

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 12 | DECEMBER 2018

### Looking Forward to 2019

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



December marks not only the close of the year, but the perfect time to think about goals and priorities for the upcoming year. The frenetic pace and ever-changing political, regulatory, and

payor dynamics have become the new normal for health care. Strategy in this environment must be clear, focused, and agile. With this perspective in mind, I wanted to highlight some of our key priorities for 2019.

Quality and safety are the foundation of success in health care. The new year will see a continued focus on evidence-based practice and standardization. Medical directors, department chairs, the medical staff quality committee, and medical staff leaders will be called upon to define priorities and best practice, outline process, and drive change. Partnerships with nursing, the ancillary and quality staffs, and physicians and providers in the outpatient space will be vital. Enhanced data analytics will be required to provide physician- and provider-specific feedback. Increased transparency will be required to meet the needs of independent physician groups and foster open conversation about refinement. The Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE) needs to be understood as a mechanism for process improvement rather than a punitive tool.

The service line structure will be enhanced by the creation of operational excellence

teams. These new teams combine operations, regulatory, and quality and are designed to enable service lines to narrow their focus to the key functions of strategy development and volume growth.

With an unprecedented number of physicians and providers delivering care at multiple Premier Health sites, there are many benefits to considering a unified medical staff. Determining the will of the individual medical staffs, proposing an equitable model of governance and representation, and identifying what could remain under local control versus what would be appropriate for system discussion will require considerable debate and thoughtful evaluation.

An unfortunate reality of modern health care is financial pressure. Premier Health

will need to continue to think of creative ways to deliver the highest quality care in the lowest cost setting. Expanding and exploring new ways to use telehealth, ensuring tight handoffs and care transitions, maximizing sourcing decisions, limiting waste, and deepening the relationships and communication with home health, the clinic system, and outpatient care providers will be required.

It must be easy for patients and referring physicians, providers, and hospital systems to do business with Premier Health. Internally, operations need to be optimized to enable smooth test ordering and patient movement. Externally, workflows need to be simplified to bring patients into the system. Determining – and resolving – the barriers to these workflows is essential.

*Continued on next page.*



# New Rule for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers with Diabetes Controlled by Insulin

On November 19, 2018, a new rule went into effect that no longer contains a blanket exclusion from driving a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce for individuals with diabetes whose treatment plan includes insulin. This includes most truck and bus drivers, delivery vehicles, and many more. It also covers commercial drivers who cross state lines.

What you should know about the new rule:

- Individuals must provide the treating clinician with at least the preceding three months of electronic blood glucose records while being treated with insulin.
- The treating clinician will complete the MCSA-5870 Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form (newly updated form).
- The treating clinician must certify that the individual has a stable insulin regimen and properly controlled insulin-treated diabetes.
- Within 45 days of completion of the MCSA-5870 form, the individual with diabetes must be medically examined by a medical examiner who will complete the medical certification process.



- The new rule contains no hemoglobin A1c requirement.
- Disqualifying complications of diabetes: non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy or proliferative diabetic retinopathy, and others if it impairs an individual's ability to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely.
- Recertification is required every 12 months.

Where to find additional information:

[fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/rulemaking/2018-20161](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/rulemaking/2018-20161)

[diabetes.org/CDL](https://diabetes.org/CDL)

Your Premier Health Diabetes Education experts:

[premierhealth.com/Diabetes-Services/](https://premierhealth.com/Diabetes-Services/)

Source: Federal Register/Vol 83, No. 182/  
Wednesday, September 19, 2018/Rules and Regulations

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*Continued from front*

## Looking Forward to 2019

Report after report demonstrates that physicians are tired, frustrated, and burned out. The Epic team will continue and expand efforts to optimize the EHR, remove useless pop-ups that contribute to alert fatigue, and educate physicians and providers on tips for greater efficiency. The CMOs, PPN leadership, administration, physician partnership committee, provider wellness teams, and physician relations management staff will develop new ways to better support the physical, mental, and spiritual

health of our physicians and providers.

This is in no way an exhaustive list of our priorities for 2019, but a high-level overview of where I believe we need to focus. As you think of where we need to be in 2019, I hope these thoughts resonate with you. Agree or disagree; I am always open to your feedback – particularly regarding any missed opportunities.

Among the busy holiday cheer and end-of-the-year festivities, I hope you will take

a few minutes to reflect on our wonderful accomplishments of 2018. There has been no shortage of challenge or change for Premier Health; but throughout it all, our physicians and providers have demonstrated resilience, grace, and a steadfast dedication to excellent patient care and compassion for the community. It is a true honor to work for and with you. My most sincere well wishes to you and your families during this special time of year!

# Enhancing Radiation Oncology Treatment

By Gregory Rasp, MD, medical director of Premier Health's radiation oncology program



In the coming year, Radiation Oncology Services – a joint venture of Dayton Physicians Network, Premier Health, and Wayne Hospital – will upgrade technology at its six radiation oncology centers. This will include the purchase of new linear accelerators and CT scanners.

Linear accelerators produce a range of very high energy radiation beams and are used to deliver radiation dose to the

tumor inside the body. The new linear accelerators will feature high resolution CT imaging for accurate localization, robotics for precise patient alignment with submillimeter accuracy, and rapid conformal dose delivery with high dose RapidArc®, among other technologies.

"This new technology will enable us to see the tumor and surrogate anatomy better with on-board high resolution CT imaging just prior to dose delivery," said radiation oncologist Gregory Rasp, MD, medical director of Premier Health's radiation oncology program. "Every day that a patient receives treatment, the new CT scan is matched to the planning CT scan and corrections are sent to the robotic couch, which moves remotely to almost perfect alignment in all six axes – three translations and three rotations. A typical treatment will take approximately two minutes to deliver with RapidArc® technology; and all of this will be done in less than 10 minutes – reducing the

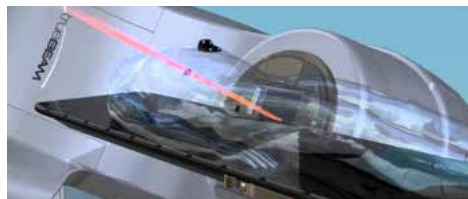
time a patient spends on the treatment couch."

Dr. Rasp said the new equipment will allow for more accurate treatments, which can improve cure rates and decrease complications. "This will give our patients an enhanced quality of life by providing a combination of better tumor control, lower side effects, and efficient treatment delivery," he said.

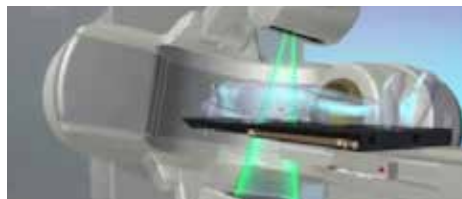
The new equipment will also include two CT scanners that will be equipped with new image processing software to reduce metal artifacts within the body. These artifacts are seen near high density objects, such as dental fillings, hip prostheses, etc. This will enable radiation oncologists and radiologists to appreciate anatomy clearly, even in the proximity of high density objects. The CT scanners will also have a wider bore to accommodate patients with custom immobilization accessories.

"All in all, this new technology will enhance cancer care for our patients in the Dayton region," said Dr. Rasp. "This goes to show that through our partnership, we are committed to providing excellent cancer care to our patients closer to their homes."

All six Dayton Physicians Network/Premier Health radiation oncology centers are accredited by the American Society of Radiation Oncology. Premier Health's oncology program is accredited by MD Anderson Cancer Network®, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center.



*RapidArc® technology used to deliver highly-focused radiation dose to the tumor*



*High resolution CT scan prior to treatment*



*Radiation used as a surgical knife in the brain and anywhere in the body to deliver an ablative radiation dose with Stereotactic Radiosurgery/Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy techniques*

*(All images courtesy of Varian Medical Systems, Palo Alto, CA)*

## LUTETIUM TRIAL FOR PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS

Precision Cancer Research, a research partner of Premier Health's oncology program, recently treated its first patient through the groundbreaking VISION study of a drug to treat metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer. Premier Health is the only health care provider in Ohio – and one of only 20 in the world – chosen to participate in the phase 3 trial.

The drug is a monoclonal, antibody-targeting, prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) attached to a radioactive atom of lutetium-177 (Lu-177). The concept behind the drug is that the monoclonal antibody will seek out and bind to any cell in the body that has PSMA. The Lu-177 will then disintegrate, hitting the cell with a high-energy beta particle. The drug has shown considerable activity in pre-clinical and early clinical studies.

To refer a patient for consideration in the trial, call **(937) 771-2474** to connect with a Premier Health radiation oncologist who can help determine the patient's suitability for the trial.



# Patient Blood Management Successes and Goals

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



I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the hospital leadership teams and providers across Premier Health for supporting the system-wide, comprehensive Patient Blood Management (cPBM) initiative in 2018. Because of you, Premier Health made a significant impact in saving blood and saving lives!

Over the past 10 months, Accumen and our hospital physicians, providers, and partners have worked diligently to implement evidenced-based strategies aimed at reducing unnecessary and avoidable transfusions to improve patient safety and stewardship. The steering committee updated transfusion guidelines, shared meaningful transfusion analytics to drive change, embarked on a comprehensive education and awareness campaign, established a system-level multidisciplinary cPBM committee, and completed CPOE design for transfusion order sets. As a result, we have accomplished the following in 2018:

- **Decreased more than 2,200 unnecessary and/or avoidable transfused units**
- **Avoided 30 potential transfusion-related complications and decreased length of stay by 1,104 days**
- **Estimated seven lives saved from avoided transfusions**
- **Saved \$482,000 in blood acquisition costs and an estimated \$1.5 million to \$2.3 million in associated transfusion costs (testing, processing, supplies, labor) – not including the cost of transfusion-related adverse events**
- **Met or exceeded two out of three PBM metric goals:**
  - Increase percentage of RBC transfusions for a Hgb <7.0 g/dl to greater than 60 percent by end of fiscal year 2018
    - **Actual as of 10/31/18: 62 percent (a 35 percent increase!)**
  - Decrease percentage of RBC transfusions for a Hgb ≥8.0 g/dl to less than 11 percent by end of fiscal year 2018
    - **Actual as of 10/31/18: 11 percent (a 31 percent reduction!)**
  - Increase percentage of RBC transfusions ordered as SINGLE units to greater than 65 percent by end of fiscal year 2018
    - **Actual as of 10/31/18: 62 percent (a 17 percent increase!)**

While our efforts and successes are to be commended, there is still opportunity for further improvement. Therefore, Premier Health must remain sincerely committed to our cPBM initiatives and press on toward continuously advancing our quality of care. In 2019, we will continue to raise the bar on quality and safety with new metric goals as we make the journey toward best in class. Our 2019 goals:

- Increase percentage of RBC transfusions for a Hgb <7.0 g/dl to **greater than 67 percent** by end of fiscal year 2019
- Decrease percentage of RBC transfusions for a Hgb ≥8.0 g/dl to **less than 8 percent** by end of fiscal year 2019
- Increase percentage of RBC transfusions ordered as SINGLE units to **greater than 76 percent** by end of fiscal year 2019

In the following months, the team will dig deeper into effective cPBM strategies aimed at optimizing anemia management, platelet and plasma utilization, and minimizing bleeding and blood loss. Drs. Steel and Kramer and the Accumen team will continue reaching out to engage you in discussions regarding current practice and evidence-based clinical strategy recommendations. I hope you will give this your full attention and support.

Premier Health remains committed to this initiative, emphasizing that our priority is to improve patient safety and clinical outcomes. This initiative will require active participation from many different departments and specialties throughout the hospitals, and support from leadership, medical staff, nursing, pharmacy, and laboratory personnel. We cannot do it without each of you!



# Premier Health Hospitals Earn Distinctions from Healthgrades

Premier Health hospitals each have received several accolades as part of Healthgrades' latest quality achievement awards.

Healthgrades evaluates hospital quality solely based on clinical outcomes, adjusting for risk factors such as patient age, gender, and medical condition.

Miami Valley Hospital received "America's 100 Best Hospitals" awards in five specialties: critical care (eight consecutive years); cardiac care (six consecutive years); stroke care (five consecutive years); and, for the first time, joint replacement and prostate surgeries.

The hospital in Dayton also received several excellence awards, including the Healthgrades Pulmonary Care Excellence Award™ (11 consecutive years), and was recognized as being in the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation for cranial neurosurgery, among other specialties. Additionally, Miami Valley Hospital was recognized as a Five-Star recipient in several specialties, including esophageal/stomach surgery, and treatment of sepsis, respiratory failure, and diabetic emergencies.

Atrium Medical Center in Middletown received the Healthgrades Critical Care Excellence Award™ for a sixth consecutive year and the Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™ for a fourth consecutive year. The hospital also was recognized as a Five-Star recipient in multiple specialties: esophageal/stomach surgery, and the treatment of heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, bowel obstruction, sepsis, and respiratory failure.

Upper Valley Medical Center in Miami County received a second consecutive Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™ and was named a Five-Star recipient for esophageal/stomach surgeries and heart attack treatment.

"Our employees continually strive for excellence and are proud to see their efforts earn national recognition," said Mary Boosalis, president and CEO of Premier Health. "These distinctions – in some cases, maintained year after year – demonstrate Premier Health's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality patient care."



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## Miami Valley Hospital Outpatient Behavioral Health Now Offering Vivitrol for Medication-Assisted Therapy

Miami Valley Hospital's Outpatient Behavioral Health Department is now offering Vivitrol as a medication-assisted treatment for patients struggling with opioid-use or alcohol-use disorders. Vivitrol is a non-addictive, once-monthly treatment that blocks opioid molecules from attaching to opioid receptors. It is used to help prevent relapse, and is used in conjunction with counseling to help clients overcome other internal or external pressures that might exacerbate substance use or mental health disorders.

Vivitrol is offered through Outpatient Behavioral Health's Turning Point program, which helps patients with addiction-related issues, as well as through the Dual Diagnosis program, which helps patients who are struggling with addiction and mental health diagnoses. Outpatient Behavioral Health also provides group therapy, medication assistance with our psychiatrist, EMDR, DBT, after-care services, and individual counseling sessions in the context of their group experience.

Patients can be referred by calling **(937) 208-6719**. Outpatient Behavioral Services accepts most Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurance. We are not contracted with Buckeye Medicaid, Molina, United Healthcare Medicaid, Champus, Cigna, or Tricare.

For more information, please contact Outpatient Behavioral Health Manager Scott Coffman at **(937) 208-6708** or [dscoffman@premierhealth.com](mailto:dscoffman@premierhealth.com).

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# Miami Valley Hospital Regional Adult Burn Center



Fire hazards in winter are as ubiquitous as presents under the tree, lurking in space heaters and decorative candles. Whether the resulting burns are coin-sized or catastrophic, they share one thing in common: They should be treated immediately at the Miami Valley Hospital Regional Adult Burn Center – one of only six adult burn programs in the state of Ohio, and the only one in the Dayton area.



“As a rule of thumb, all burns should be seen at our regional burn center,” said Travis Perry, MD, medical director of the Burn Center, which treats all severity levels of burn injuries. “If

you want your burn scarring to be barely noticeable, rather than blatant, see us sooner rather than later.”

Dr. Perry, a burn- and wound-trained surgeon, came to Miami Valley Hospital from Shriners Hospitals for Children – Galveston, a verified pediatric burn care center in Texas. “I initiated the same protocols for our staff,” he said. “It’s an aggressive team approach, and the outcomes are comparable to anywhere in the country.”

The Burn Center’s multidisciplinary team

features physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, a dietitian, pharmacists, a social worker, psychologists, and pastoral counselors.

Burn Center patients receive specialized, intensive care and an integrated team approach, whether they are being treated in a 10-bed burn unit equipped with the latest technology, or as outpatients in the same-day burn clinic.

“We focus on scar management for both big and small burns,” said nurse manager Melora Waltman.

A burn the size of a nickel might not seem serious enough to leave the holiday dinner table. If left untreated, however, it can cause a large disruption in a patient’s life; even a small burn involving the joints, for instance, can result in limited range of motion. “A small burn and its appearance might make a big difference in someone’s life,” Waltman said. “Some patients might not want to go out in public due to the stigma.”

Patients who don’t require hospitalization can be referred to the same-day burn clinic. “The trend is toward handling patients on an outpatient basis, which is more convenient and conducive to care,” Dr. Perry said.

Comprehensive services offered at the Burn Center include management of all sizes of burn wounds, burn scar management, and reconstructive surgery. Other specialties

include management of all types of chronic wounds, such as arterial insufficiency ulcers, venous stasis ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, and pressure ulcers; and treatment of complex skin and soft-tissue wounds, such as necrotizing soft tissue infections, and large complex skin disorder wounds, such as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis Syndrome (TENS). “We achieve great success through aggressive wound care management,” Waltman said.

The Burn Center – which has access to the region’s only Level 1 Trauma Center at Miami Valley Hospital – features a ventilation system isolated from the rest of the hospital to prevent infection, as well as two treatment rooms built to operating room specifications. Staff also work closely with the affiliated Wound Care Center and Ostomy Clinic – the only one of its kind in the region. “We are all part of the same team,” noted Greg Sanchez, one of three advanced practice nurses in the Ostomy Clinic.

“We are a highly specialized team, with everyone working on their respective parts,” Dr. Perry said.

Even in the midst of the hectic holiday season, Dr. Perry hopes patients and providers will remember one thing: “Prompt treatment can maximize cosmetic and functional outcomes for patients and help them quickly resume everyday activities.”

# Physician Burnout

By Patrick Larreategui, DO, FACOS, medical staff president, Upper Valley Medical Center



The medical staff at Upper Valley Medical Center, along with physicians throughout Premier Health, recently participated in the Ohio Hospital Association's

physician burnout study. Of the 269 Premier Health physicians who completed the survey, 54.3 percent reported being at or near burnout, compared to 56.3 percent

statewide. Employed physicians had a slightly higher rate of burnout compared to private physicians.

Physician burnout presents as a cluster of symptoms, such as fatigue, exhaustion, cynicism, decreased productivity, and feeling a lack of personal accomplishment. More than half of all physicians suffer from at least one of these symptoms. Unfortunately, burnout is often attributed to a lack of resilience and resourcefulness on the part of the physician. This characterization of physicians suffering from burnout is simply not true. Physicians are highly motivated,

resilient people who have entered the field of medicine with the desire to help people. They have sacrificed normal lives to make it through years of medical training. They endure lost sleep, family strain, financial instability, and often disregard for their own personal health.

Physician burnout is the inevitable consequence of the current health care system in which physicians retain all the responsibility of caring for patients but are slowly being stripped of authority regarding how that care is delivered. Clinical guidelines, electronic medical records, patient satisfaction scores, quality metrics, and the constant threat of litigation all weigh heavily on physicians' clinical decision making. More and more physicians are employed by health care systems, thus losing autonomy regarding how their practices are managed. The daily grind of modern health care is emotionally exhausting. Suicide rates among physicians are not only now twice that of active duty military members; physicians have the highest suicide rate of any profession.

Collaborative efforts between physicians and health system administrative leaders to improve communication is a good first step in working toward a solution. Michael Gelbart, MD, president-elect of the UVMC medical staff, is forming a physician counsel to encourage dialogue between physician leaders and administration. The group will discuss many challenges facing physicians today, without the constraints, rules, and formality of other established committees.

Ultimately, physicians need to regain autonomy in how they care for patients. Physicians must be regarded as more than providers of call coverage. Senior physicians should be treated with respect and loyalty for their years of service; not as depreciating assets as they age. And health care leaders need to recognize that physician wellness correlates with patient wellness – because happy physicians deliver high-quality, compassionate care.





# Premier Health Medical Marijuana Policy for Employees and Caregivers

Two years ago, Ohio became the 25th state to approve medical marijuana. Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program went into effect Sept. 8, 2018, but the availability of medical marijuana has been delayed. Still, it is anticipated that more and more patients will have access to medical marijuana soon – and that patients' expectations around medical marijuana will begin to shift.

Given this reality, we would like all employees to be aware that Premier Health's existing policies have not changed regarding the possession and use of marijuana (or being under the influence of marijuana) at work. In addition, Premier Health continues to prohibit 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.

Like many other health care providers across the state, Premier Health is adopting this conservative approach initially for several reasons. While medical marijuana is legal in Ohio, its use – whether medicinal or recreational – is still prohibited under federal law. Allowing employees to use medical marijuana might contradict



federal regulations that Premier Health is required to follow as a recipient of Medicare payments.

In addition, Premier Health employees should be aware of the following:

- Medical marijuana is not covered by medical insurance. It is not a prescription (and is obtained at a dispensary instead of at a pharmacy).
- Impairment at work, of course, is not acceptable, especially in health care settings in which patient safety could

become an issue. This would violate our company's "Fitness for Duty" policy. Leave is available if needed.

- Having marijuana on-site is not permitted, as it would violate Premier Health's "Drug-Free Workplace" policy and runs counter to federal law.

We will continue to monitor and seek input – both internally and externally – regarding this matter as the health care policy landscape evolves. If you have any questions, please contact your immediate supervisor.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA FAQ

### How will we document medical marijuana usage in Epic?

Home use of medical marijuana can be documented during medication reconciliation by adding ERx 72000420 cannabidiol extract oral oil to the home med list. An alt alert prevents this product from being ordered for inpatient stay. It cannot be prescribed or e-prescribed.

### What is Premier Health's stance on allowing patients to take medical marijuana during their hospitalization?

Premier Health does not allow medical marijuana use in any form in the hospital setting.

### What do I tell a patient who brings in medical marijuana and wants to continue using it?

Patients should be informed that Premier Health does not allow medical marijuana use in the hospital, and that their pain (or whatever symptoms they use it for) will be treated in other ways during their stay.

### What is my responsibility with medical marijuana brought in by a patient with their home medications?

Medical marijuana brought into the hospital should be sent home with a family member or caregiver. If this is not possible, medical marijuana should be handled

as an illegal substance and secured by campus police.

### What happens if the patient refuses to send the substance home with family and they refuse to allow campus police to secure the substance?

Reinforce our policy. Reiterate that we must secure the medical marijuana and will return at discharge. If the patient refuses and wants to leave AMA, it is their right. Have the patient sign AMA papers per our policy.



# Troy ENT Surgeon Practices Near Hometown



**Laura J. Tully, MD,** sees patients at Premier ENT Associates in Troy.

**What is your clinical specialty?**  
ENT – otolaryngology

**Where did you go to school?**

Notre Dame for undergrad, then Emory University in Atlanta for medical school and residency

**What brought you to Premier Health?**

I grew up in Piqua and decided to move back home to be closer to family.

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

I always knew I wanted to do medicine – taking care of patients was what drew me to it. In college, I debated between PA school and medical school. I shadowed a few Wright State primary care residents when I was in college, and I decided to become a physician.

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

The Wright State residents encouraged me to go into medical school. In medical school, Linton Hopkins, a neurologist, was my primary mentor. Once I decided to go into surgery, Dr. Michael Johns III mentored me on my path to becoming an ENT.

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

Tully is my married name. My maiden name was Laura White.

**Where is your hometown?**

Piqua, Ohio

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

Notre Dame football

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

“Crazy Rich Asians” and “Healthy Sleep Habits, Happy Child”

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

I listen to WPTW 98.1 on the radio.

**What is your favorite food?**

Ice cream

**What is your favorite hobby?**

Going on walks with my daughter and my dog

**What is your favorite animal?**

My dog, Leroy

**Where is your favorite vacation spot?**

Anywhere on the beach

## Pick a side

**iPhone or Android?** Android

**Early bird or night owl?** Early bird

**Beach bum or mountain hiker?** Beach

**Dress shoes or tennis shoes?** Tennis

**Paperback or e-reader?** Paper

**Coffee or tea?** Coffee

**Cooking or baking?** Cooking

**Sweet or salty?** Sweet

## 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. Abdul-Karim** is my favorite doctor, as well as my husband's. He is so caring and spends time with us. Already have sent other family members and friends to him.

**Dr. AlSamkari** is AMAZING! He always takes his time to explain things and has a great, friendly personality.

**Dr. Czajka** is a doll! I love him dearly!

**Dr. Gendler** is wonderful. She always addresses my concerns and is easy to talk to. She is very concerned regarding my wellness. I am lucky to have such a good doctor.

**Dr. Larson** is the best. She's very knowledgeable and yet makes you feel like she's a friend.

**Dr. Lauricella** is so helpful to me and my family and does all he can to help. I could not ask for a better doctor. I tell everyone he is the best doctor anyone could ever have.

**Dr. McGilton** is a fantastic doctor – the very best, always. I am a senior, and he is the best doctor I have ever had!!!

**Dr. McHenry** explains everything very well! He is the best doctor I have ever had. OUTSTANDING!

**Dr. Metry** is a fantastic doctor. She is very personable.

**Dr. Weber** and all staff at the pediatric group are amazing. I would recommend every doctor in this practice to a family member for care.

# Open Houses, Awards, and Presentations

## Atrium Medical Center

About 75 people attended a ribbon-cutting and nearly 80 people attended an open house on November 7 for Premier Physician Network's new medical office building in Liberty Twp. The medical office building at 6615 Cincinnati-Dayton Road will have space for four primary care providers and will offer specialty services – possibly in the areas of orthopedics, cardiology, endocrinology, rheumatology, and women's health.



**Marquita Turner**, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at Atrium Medical Center, was recognized through the West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance's Women

of Excellence recognition program on November 16. The program honors women who, through their careers or volunteer work, have enhanced business, education, culture or philanthropy.

Atrium Medical Center Foundation's 20th annual Estate and Tax Planning Seminar was held November 2 at the Savannah Center in West Chester Twp. As many as 400 estate and tax planning professionals typically attend this all-day session. Attendees received their continuing education credits and visited sponsor booths, as well as a Premier Health-sponsored health fair. This event allows the organization to demonstrate Atrium Medical Center Foundation's stewardship and provide attendees a case for supporting the hospital, the foundation, and Premier Health.

The City of Middletown's council on Dec. 18 heard arguments regarding a

rezoning request from Kettering Health Network that would clear the way for that health system to add inpatient beds across the street from Atrium. A vote is expected in January.

**Cameron McGregor**, vice president of business development for Atrium and Upper Valley Medical Center, represented Atrium in speaking about the future of health care on November 8 at Miami University Regionals. About 50 people attended the



event, which also featured a speaker from Kettering Health Network's Middletown campus.

## Miami Valley Hospital

Miami Valley Hospital and CareFlight Air and Mobile Services partnered with the Harrison Township Fire Department to host an emergency mass-casualty training event that featured an incident with a school bus. The training took place at Northridge High School. Miami Valley Hospital care providers and the CareFlight team assisted by applying moulage to the student actors and served as additional care providers for triage.



Miami Valley Hospital hosted a fall festival and community open house on the main campus on November 4. More than 500 people attended the event, which featured hospital tours, activities for the entire family, driving simulators, the CareFlight team, food, music, and more. The biggest draw was the offering of free flu shots.

Miami Valley Hospital hosted the Dayton Metropolitan Medical Response System Steering Committee. Dayton-area first responders heard from representatives from the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA), Cincinnati Fire Department, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and Public Health–Dayton & Montgomery County, as well as an FBI agent from Cincinnati.

A Becker's Hospital Review weekly online column titled "Question of the Week" featured Miami Valley Hospital Chief Medical Officer Marc Belcastro, DO. Dr. Belcastro answered, "What is the most innovative idea you've implemented?" His comments centered around implicit/unconscious bias training implemented with the medical staff and how addressing that issue supports overall care for patients.

In preparation for the Miami Valley Hospital South expansion open house this month, the following areas went live in November: respiratory therapy, pharmacy, the physician's lounge, Premier Orthopedics, and sports medicine.

## Upper Valley Medical Center

A groundbreaking took place Nov. 8 for the Ohio's Hospice of Miami County freestanding hospice house and administrative offices to be constructed on the north side of the Upper Valley Medical Center campus. The 32,000-square-foot facility will have 12 beds when it opens in late 2019, with space on the site for a six-bed addition when needed. The seven-



bed inpatient unit currently located within the hospital, along with the offices at the Summit Professional Building in Troy, will relocate to the new facility. The building will feature a spa and massage room for patients, exterior doors in all patient rooms, private meeting spaces for families, a large family living area, and a center of excellence meeting space for clinical and community education programs.

UVMC hosted activities to honor veterans as a part of Veterans Day in November. An American flags project gave staff the opportunity to sponsor flags in honor of a veteran or loved one serving in the military. Nearly 600 flags were displayed on UVMC grounds throughout November, and proceeds from the project were donated to local programs for veterans. A Veterans Day celebration for the community that took place at the hospital Nov. 12 featured guest speaker Al Mulder, a local U.S. Army veteran who shared the story of his family's experience in the Dutch Resistance as citizens of the Netherlands during World War II. Veterans in attendance were recognized with a certificate of appreciation and small gift from UVMC Administration and Future Leaders.

UVMC/Premier Health was a gold level sponsor for the Edison Community College

Annual Holiday Evening held Nov. 28, attended by more than 400 community members. UVMC's sponsorship of this high-profile event, which is the major fundraiser for the Edison Foundation, is part of the hospital's long-standing partnership with the college.

UVMC was title sponsor of the Troy Rec Ninja Obstacle Challenge held Nov. 2 and 3 at The Rec in downtown Troy. The event, attended by hundreds of local families, provided a friendly, active competition focused on youth fitness. In other community outreach, UVMC was a top-level sponsor for the Piqua Holiday Horse Parade Nov. 10 in downtown Piqua to launch the holiday season. Also, the UVMC Sleep Center participated in an employee health and wellness fair at the Avenue Stores Logistics Operations in Troy.

Ivy Thoman, nurse specialist in the emergency department, was recognized as the 2018 UVMC Employee of the Year during the annual Employee Recognition and Silver Anniversary Club Banquet held Nov. 13 at the Learning Place in Piqua. Employee of the Month recipients for 2018 and all staff who reached five-year incremental milestones also were honored at the event.

# Premier Health Names Physician As Hospital President For First Time

Keith Bricking, MD, has been named president of Atrium Medical Center as of January 1, 2019. In addition to his medical training and experience as an emergency medicine physician, Dr. Bricking has served in many leadership roles, including current president of the Miami Valley Hospital medical staff and past medical director of the Miami Valley Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine. He is the first physician to lead a Premier Health hospital.

Dr. Bricking is replacing current Atrium Medical Center President Mike Uhl, who has been named president of Miami Valley Hospital, also effective January 1, 2019. Mike Maiberger, who has been serving concurrently as president of Miami Valley Hospital and executive vice president and chief operating officer of Premier Health, will return to serving solely in his system leadership role.



*Keith Bricking*



*Mike Uhl*

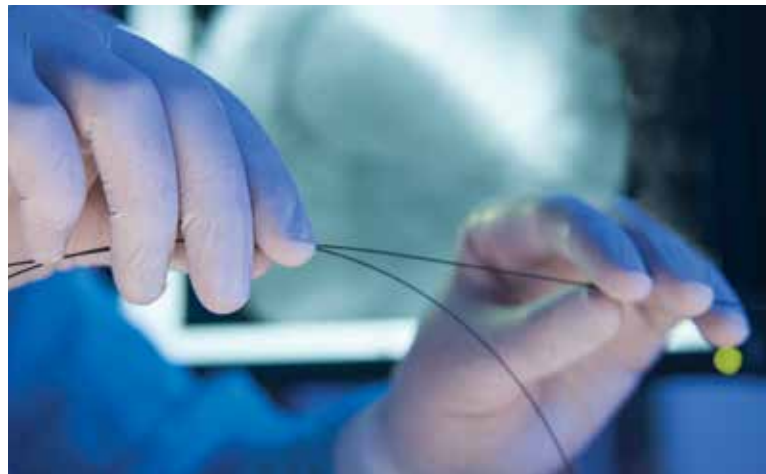


*Mike Maiberger*

## Diagnostic Cath Lab to Open at Miami Valley Hospital North

Premier Health is pleased to announce the opening of cardiac catheterization services at Miami Valley Hospital North on January 14, 2019. The cath lab will supplement other cardiac services already available at Miami Valley Hospital North, including Heart CT, cardiac MRI, cardioversions, cardiac and pulmonary rehab, the heart failure clinic, and more. Additional heart services will come throughout 2019, including TEEs and interventional procedures.

"We are pleased to add a new level of cardiovascular services at Miami Valley Hospital North," said Mary Garman, chief operating officer of the facility. "With the cath lab, we will now be able to offer elective catheterizations, device implantation, and peripheral vascular procedures."



## 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](http://atriummedcenter.org/ournewphysicians)

**Miami Valley Hospital** go to [miamivalleyhospital/ournewphysicians](http://miamivalleyhospital/ournewphysicians)

**Upper Valley Medical Center** go to [uvmc.com/ournewphysicians](http://uvmc.com/ournewphysicians)

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