

# Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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## Taking a Moment to Unpack a Heartfelt “Thank You”

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



Life could have been so much simpler.

You didn't have to endure years of schooling to learn the “basics,” or residencies and fellowships that bordered on abuse. You didn't

have to graduate with more debt than the price many people would pay for their dream home.

You could have made it home on time for dinners and spent nights, weekends, and/or holidays uninterrupted with family.

You didn't have to be distracted on your day off wondering about the crazy case that stumped you last week, or whether a critical patient will be alive when you return to the service.

What were you thinking?

The answer is found in one of my favorite sayings: A career is what you are paid for, but a calling is what you are made for!

The life of a doctor is most certainly not normal. Common sense would tell you to pass on the opportunity if the first five sentences were offered as a job description.

But the sacrifices come with unparalleled rewards. You save lives. You heal. And when you cannot do either, you comfort and show that death, while undoubtedly sad, can be beautiful. Your patients trust you. Your words alone often provide more

benefit than the best medicines or greatest technological advancements. You perform miracles every day, big and small.

Too often, we don't take the time to pause and express our appreciation for the dedication, compassion, and skill that our physicians invest in patients, their families, and Premier Health each and every day.

The challenges that physicians face often come from external sources, such as regulatory agencies and governing bodies. This year, the usual external challenges have been compounded by the internal restructuring of our organization.

Your ability to weather these challenges and remain laser-focused on quality patient care and safety are a testament to the character of the men and women of this organization. While words alone will never fully convey the depth of gratitude deserved, I hope you will accept a heartfelt “thank you” for all that you do.

Today, every day, and especially during this time of transition and change – thank you! We are so very blessed to have you with us at Premier Health.





## 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:

### **Atrium Medical Center**

**Dr. Griesser** and his staff are outstanding. He is THE best physician I have been treated by in the last twenty years.

**Dr. Block** helped me to navigate through the questions and paperwork associated with Health Care Power of Attorney, Living Will, and DNR decisions. That was so daunting to me, so it eased my mind that he could take the time to help me with getting those papers in order. I also want to say that I chose to follow Dr. Block to his new practice because of his care and concern that he showed while he was at Five Rivers Health Care Center. It is worth it to me to drive farther to get the care I need.

**Dr. Brown** is an excellent and conscientious physician.

### **Good Samaritan Hospital**

**Dr. Ryan** takes time to listen to his patients and answer questions. The staff is courteous and upbeat making for an enjoyable visit.

**Dr. Schatzel** is a very attentive doctor. He listens to my concerns and offers solutions that are helpful to me.

Third visit in three months. **Dr. Rettig** and **Dr. Kauffman** are absolutely outstanding!! The whole office is so friendly!!

### **Miami Valley Hospital**

I am so grateful that I have **Dr. Ruff** as my primary physician and the respect she has always shown me.

I have chronic heart disease, so I appreciate **Dr. Wenzke** and his staff taking care of my medical needs and concerns.

**Dr. Reitz** is a very caring and concerned doctor. She listens and gives great advice. I trust her "with my life."

**Dr. Jay Hoffman** is an excellent physician and a wonderful human being. He is knowledgeable, caring, compassionate, and

up-to-date on his medical training. Over the years, he and I have had many office chats, and I continue to be impressed with his wisdom. We talk about the benefits of bicycling, running, weight-lifting, and swimming, among other things. He has been my doctor for almost 30 years, and it was Jay who inspired me to start running again in 1995, a fact which I refer to obliquely in the "Running Commentary" in the "about" section of my page on Facebook. Simply put, I look forward to many more years of going to Dr. Jay G. Hoffman, one of your very best.

### **Upper Valley Medical Center**

**Dr. Rayborn** is a very kind & gentle doctor. He is very good & I will continue going to him for as long as I can.

I like that **Dr. Michael** signed me up to MyChart and communicates very quickly with me when I message him.

**Dr. Lorenz** is completely professional and personal, best ever.

# Longtime Premier Health Physician Values International Upbringing



**George T. Broderick Jr., MD**, specializes in interventional cardiology at Good Samaritan Hospital.

**What brought you to Premier Health?**  
Working at Good Samaritan

Hospital since 1993

**Why did you choose medicine as a career?**  
The combination of science and art

**Where did you go to school?** BS – University of Notre Dame; MD – Wright State University School of Medicine; residency – Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School; fellowship – University of Chicago

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

My parents; an English teacher in high school; and my co-residents in medicine in Boston

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

I lived in Rome, Italy, and Stuttgart, Germany, in high school.

**Where is your hometown?**

No hometown, Air Force brat

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

The Chicago Bears

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

“The Republic For Which It Stands: The United States During Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896”

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

Mozart’s “Requiem”

**What is your favorite food?**

Steak

**What is your favorite hobby?**

Reading

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

Chicago; it’s on a lake

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

My childhood with my family and parents growing up around the world

## Pick a side

**iPhone or Android?**

Android

**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?**

Hardcover

**Coffee or tea?**

Coffee

**Cooking or baking?**

Order out

**Sweet or salty?**

Salty



# Women's Services Sets Sights on Strategic Initiatives

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

The Women's Health Institute (WHI) service line continues to make progress system-wide with growth initiatives, patient experience, research, clinical quality, safety, and program development. William Rettig, MD, Women's Health Institute chair, says of the effort, "The collaboration continues to be strong as we are beginning to move into the next phase of initiatives toward 2020, but I would like to recognize physicians and staff for their efforts and on future initiatives."

Here is a sample of the many projects in process, as well as recent distinctions for the women's service line:

- Women's Health Institute will continue to work on several initiatives this year to increase access in markets, lower cost

of care, and add services and options to enhance patient care and experience.

- Anthem Blue Distinction® Center+ for Maternity Care for all Premier Health maternity centers (AMC, GSH, MVH, MVHS and UVMC) was received for the second time at the beginning of 2018. The BDC+ recognizes facilities for their expertise and cost efficiency in delivering maternity care.
- The obstetrics quality/safety team of physicians and OB nursing directors from across the system will focus on:
  - Requirements for Anthem's Quality Hospital Incentive Program (Q-HIP) safety bundles
  - Process to reducing primary NSTV C-Section rates

– Ongoing initiatives to help lower infant mortality and pre-term birth rates

- OB navigator Epic platform for all ambulatory practices and clinics – a system-wide provider committee worked together to standardize this new platform. This Epic provider team, along with IT, will continue to meet quarterly to review and approve change requests for the OB/GYN checklist for implementation.
- Perinatal Partners Maternal Fetal Medicine physicians will expand the co-management of the prenatal/gestational diabetes program at Atrium Medical Center.

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## Premier Health Facilities Recognized for Higher Quality in Maternity Care

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio has, for the second time, recognized all Premier Health maternity centers with a Blue Distinction® Center+ for Maternity Care designation as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

The maternity centers include Atrium Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Miami Valley Hospital with an additional site at Miami Valley Hospital South, and Upper Valley Medical Center.

Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated hospitals that demonstrate expertise in delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community.

Nearly 4 million babies are born in the United States each year, making childbirth the most common cause of hospitalization, and cesarean sections the most common operating room procedures, according to National Centers for Health Statistics and the Agency for Health Care Research & Quality (AHRQ). Reducing early elective delivery is an area of focus for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). According to Health Affairs, elective inductions result in more cesarean deliveries and a longer maternal hospitalization.

The Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care program evaluates hospitals on

quality measures for vaginal and cesarean deliveries. To receive a Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care designation, a hospital must also demonstrate cost-efficiency.

Quality is key: only those hospitals that first meet Blue Distinction's nationally-established, objective quality measures will be considered for designation as a Blue Distinction Center+.

For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated facilities, please visit [bcbs.com/bluedistinction](http://bcbs.com/bluedistinction).

# Advanced Gynecological Ultrasound Interpreted by Physicians on Site

By A. Kinney Hiatt, MD, RDMS, and Jiri D. Sonek, MD, RDMS, from Perinatal Partners



Pelvic ultrasound is recognized as the most accurate method to assess female pelvic organs.<sup>1</sup> Timely and accurate diagnosis and screening using ultrasound can make a big difference for a woman's health. At Perinatal Partners, we have physicians who specialize in obstetrical and gynecological ultrasound. In addition to their role as maternal fetal medicine subspecialists, our physicians are board-certified obstetricians and gynecologists. This gives them a special ability to interpret ultrasound findings in the context of the patient's gynecologic history and current ACOG recommendations to arrive at a more accurate diagnosis. Additionally, their background allows them to give recommendations that are tailored to the individual patient rather than just the ultrasound findings.

Gynecological ultrasound is used to image the uterus, ovaries, and other pelvic organs. Transvaginal ultrasound provides the best visualization of these organs. However, in certain circumstances, transabdominal ultrasound is used either exclusively or in addition to the transvaginal approach. In our

evaluations, we often use supplementary techniques such as color and pulsed Doppler, 3-D imaging, and saline infusion sonography (sonohysterography).

In most cases, our physicians can give results to the patient at the time of her visit. This reduces the level of the patient's anxiety and gives her the opportunity to ask questions. We also strive to send the report to the referring physician within 24 hours, and communicate abnormal results directly to the referring physician over the phone.

Following are some of the common indications for gynecologic ultrasound:

- Abnormal bleeding
- Pelvic pain
- Suspected enlargement of the uterus
- Suspected enlargement of the ovaries
- Suspected pelvic mass
- Suspected uterine malformations
- Checking IUD location
- Infertility: to assess the appearance of the uterus and ovaries
- Infertility treatment: follicle study
- Limited office pelvic exam

We maintain a close working relationship with referring physicians, including gynecologic oncology specialists. This cooperation will expand even further with the forthcoming accreditation by the International Ovarian Tumor Analysis (IOTA) group.<sup>2</sup> A more detailed description of this endeavor will be discussed in this publication later in 2018.

## Perinatal Partners Locations

Dayton | Centerville | Middletown | Mason | Piqua | Vandalia

1. Benacerraf B, Abuhamad A, Bromley B, et al. Consider ultrasound first for imaging the female pelvis (Clinical Opinion). *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2015;212:450-455 DOI 10.1016/j.AJOG.2015.02.015
2. Abramowicz, J. S., & Timmerman, D. Ovarian mass-differentiating benign from malignant: the value of the International Ovarian Tumor Analysis ultrasound rules. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2017;217(6):52-660.

# Premier Health Clinical Leadership Transitions

A crucial aspect of Premier Health's 2020 strategic plan has been positioning our system and clinical leadership teams in the best possible way to meet the long term needs of our organization, and ultimately, our community. To that end, the following transitions were recently announced:



**Jennifer Hauler, DO**, chief medical officer for Premier Health's northern region, is being promoted to system chief medical officer. She began her career with

Premier Health as vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer for Upper Valley Medical Center. Dr. Hauler received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. She also completed a Master of Business Administration degree from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. She is board certified in family medicine and emergency medicine.



**Tammy Lundstrom, MD, JD**, interim chief clinical officer, has left Premier Health to join Trinity Health, a national \$17.6 billion health system with 93 hospitals, based

in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Lundstrom will be the corporate senior vice president and chief medical officer for the health system. Her last day with Premier Health was April 20. Dr. Lundstrom joined Premier Health in 2012 as the chief medical officer for the health system. During her tenure, she has led our efforts in quality, working with teams across the system, resulting in highly successful outcomes. She also led efforts to enhance opportunities for physicians in many aspects of the business of health care, including advanced educational programming. Most recently,

Dr. Lundstrom moved to a role of leading our clinical integration initiatives, including responsibility for the Premier Physician Network (PPN) and service integration. We are working on a plan to redistribute Dr. Lundstrom's current responsibilities.



**Jerry Clark, MD, CMD**, retired as of April 13. Dr. Clark became president and chief medical officer of our physician hospital organization, Premier Health Group, in 2013, and has served

as chief medical officer for our health insurance company, Premier Health Plans. He joined the health system in 1988, specializing in internal medicine and practicing in Beavercreek. During his executive career, Dr. Clark helped build a network of more than 6000 providers, implement our award-winning wellness program for Premier Health employees, and integrate population health programs. Dr. Clark has made a positive difference for his patients, his team, and the community, both as a caring physician and as an executive leader. Please join us in thanking Dr. Clark for his contributions to Premier Health and to the community. We wish him the very best in the future.



**Barry McCorkle, MD**, vice president of clinical excellence, let us know of his intention to leave the organization as of March 31. Dr. McCorkle joined Miami Valley Hospital

as a resident specializing in internal medicine, and started a practice on Wayne Avenue in Dayton in 1991. He joined the executive team as vice president of clinical excellence in 2012. We thank Dr. McCorkle for his service to Premier Health and the community and wish him the very best.



**Diane Pleiman** has been promoted to president of Premier Physician Network (PPN). She previously served as vice president and chief operating officer at Upper Valley Medical

Center and oversaw the system's nutrition services.



**Jason Merritt** is being promoted to a vice president of PPN specialty services (neurosciences). He previously served as director of nursing for emergency services at

Good Samaritan Hospital.



**Pam Rader** is transitioning to vice president of primary care for PPN. She most recently has served as vice president of operations for PPN.



**Robin Rutledge**, vice president of service integration for heart and vascular services, will become a vice president of PPN specialty services (heart and vascular, surgery).

# Documenting Acute and Chronic Respiratory Failure

## Acute Respiratory Failure

Acute respiratory failure is one of those diagnoses that can cause confusion. Here are some pearls to help you document it well:

The established criteria for acute respiratory failure are (all you need is one!):

- Room Air pO<sub>2</sub> less than 60
- Room Air O<sub>2</sub> Sat less than 91 percent
- pCO<sub>2</sub> greater than 50 and pH less than 7.35
- pO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> less than 300
- pO<sub>2</sub> decrease, or pCO<sub>2</sub> increase of 10mmHg from baseline

Any of the above will qualify the patient for having acute respiratory failure. Remember that when you document acute respiratory failure based on these criteria, you must specify whether it is hypoxic or hypercarbic – or both – and outline how you made the diagnosis. For example, note that, “This is acute hypoxic respiratory failure as manifested by (insert at least one of the above criteria).” And remember to always link the respiratory failure to the etiology of the failure. For example, document that “... due to a right lower lobe pneumonia...”

Also describe in your notes the respiratory distress that your patient is experiencing. Use tachypnea and bradypnea; describe accessory muscle use; describe lung sounds; describe the patient's mental status (severely lethargic with slurred speech); write that “the patient is unable to finish a sentence,” if that is the case, or that “he is in extremis and highly anxious,” etc. Consider whether the patient's life would have been in imminent jeopardy without intervention, and say so in your notes. Paint the picture with words so that no one will question your clinical judgment or treatment plan.

The guideline FIO<sub>2</sub> cutoff for acute respiratory failure is 6 liters by nasal cannula or more (which is an FiO<sub>2</sub> of 50 percent or higher) to substantiate treatment and call it acute respiratory failure.

Always link the acute respiratory failure to the etiology by noting, for example, that “due to his RLL pneumonia with a large right-sided pleural effusion,” or “due to progressive, end-stage COPD,” etc.

If you feel a patient should be in the hospital, do not hesitate to admit the patient and care for him or her in the hospital even if he or she doesn't fit the criteria – that is clinical decision-making. But make sure to document your decision in detail, saying, for example, that “the patient is in severe respiratory distress due to status asthmaticus, and despite a pO<sub>2</sub> of 62 on room air, it is my clinical judgment that this represents acute respiratory failure requiring aggressive critical care.”

## Chronic Respiratory Failure

Chronic respiratory failure should be considered if the patient has any of the following predisposing chronic conditions:

- Pulmonary disease – COPD, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis
- Neurologic or neuromuscular diseases – spinal cord injuries, ALS, muscular dystrophy
- Obesity hypoventilation syndrome (Pickwickian syndrome)

Treatments that should trigger consideration of a diagnosis of chronic respiratory failure are:

- Home oxygen therapy
- Tracheostomy
- Mechanical or non-invasive ventilation

Document the type of chronic respiratory failure (hypoxic or hypercarbic) and link the diagnosis to the etiology.

Acute on chronic respiratory failure happens when a patient who was in compensated respiratory failure has an acute insult, manifested by:

- pO<sub>2</sub> decreases by 10; or
- pCO<sub>2</sub> increases by 10

(10 is the magic number)

## Caveats of Documentation

All providers must be consistent – everybody needs to call it the same thing. Ideally, the pulmonologist will set the example, and the hospitalist will follow the lead, or vice versa.

- Be precise with the type, acuity, and etiology.
- Put the “MENTATION” back into documentation. Describe your clinical judgment.
- THINK WITH INK!!

Happy documenting, and thanks for everything you do for our patients.

Dr. Bob Morrison, MD



*Dr. Morrison is the associate chief medical officer at Miami Valley Hospital and is now the physician advisor for Premier Health. He can be reached in his office or by cellphone.*

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# High Honor for Wound Care Center; Surgeon Named Top Doctor; Business Excellence Award

## Atrium Medical Center



The Wound Care Center and Hyperbaric Services at Atrium Medical Center has received the distinguished Center of the Year award from Healogics Inc. Only seven centers across the country received the award, out of nearly 700 that had the opportunity to qualify. In addition to being named Center of the Year for a

geographical region, Healogics identified Atrium's wound center as top-performing Center of the Year nationwide for 2017. Stringent quality measures, such as high healing outcomes, low days to heal, and excellent patient satisfaction rates, must be met to qualify for Center of the Year. "These results could not be achieved without teamwork involving the support of the hospital, affiliated physicians and especially the wound center's nursing staff," said Dr. William Dickhoner, co-medical director of The Wound Care Center and Hyperbaric Services at Atrium. "We pride ourselves in providing the best care possible for our patients."

The Wound Care Center at Atrium offers highly specialized wound care to patients suffering from diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, infections, and other chronic wounds that have not healed in a reasonable amount of time. The center cared for more than 900 patients in 2017, often preventing amputations and helping patients return to active lives. Advanced treatments offered by the center include negative pressure wound therapy, bio-engineered skin substitutes, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, biological and biosynthetic dressings, and growth factor therapies. Additionally in 2017, Atrium was one of 268 centers to receive the benchmark of "Robert A. Warriner III, M.D., Center of Excellence." As a Center of Excellence, Atrium's wound center achieved patient satisfaction rates higher than 92 percent, and a healing rate of at least 91 percent in less than a median of 30 days to heal, for a minimum of two consecutive years, according to Healogics.

On June 2, the City of Lebanon will host a grand opening celebration for the Premier Health Atrium Medical Center Bike Park. The event will feature mountain bike demonstrations, clinics, professional BMX exhibitions, music, food, and giveaways. It will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 2 p.m. Parking will be available at the Rural King Shopping Plaza on Deerfield Road. A crosswalk and biking lane will be provided for the event for attendees to ride their bikes over to the park, or visitors can take a free shuttle over to the event. For more information, visit [lebanonbikepark.org](http://lebanonbikepark.org) or search for [@LebanonBikePark](https://www.facebook.com/LebanonBikePark) on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

The park, located at 475 E. Turtlecreek Union Road, was first envisioned by members of the Lebanon Parks and Recreation Board. The board sought to develop a 45-acre city-owned parcel into an off-



road bike park that features a mountain bike trail, pump track, skills area, jump line, and Cyclo-cross course. The multi-use bike park, which is unique to the region, will offer cycling opportunities for all skill levels and abilities. Construction of the bike park was made possible by \$200,000 in state grant funding, and an additional \$60,000 raised through private donations. Premier Health and Atrium Medical Center are both park sponsors.

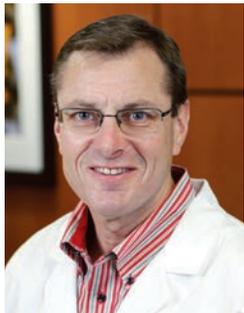
## Good Samaritan Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital's obstetrics and gynecology services were the first major service line to move to Miami Valley Hospital. As of midnight on Sunday, April 15, 2018, OB consults are no longer available at Good Sam. If services cannot be delayed, the patient will need to be transferred through the normal referral process currently in place. Please contact Dr. Kanagy, chief medical officer, Premier Health's northern region, at ext. 2247 or by cell at **(937) 716-6232** with any questions.



### **Miami Valley Hospital**

**John K. Bini, MD, FACS**, trauma surgeon at Miami Valley Hospital, has been named a 2018 Top Doctor in Dayton. Top Doctor awards honor select health care practitioners who demonstrate clinical excellence while delivering the highest level of patient care. The selection process considers education, research contributions, patient reviews, and other quality measures.



Dr. Bini is a highly experienced and respected surgeon who has been in practice for more than 18 years. He is board certified by the American Board of Surgery in both surgery and surgical critical care. He offers a wide range of surgical procedures for patients of many ages, including

cardiovascular and pulmonary surgery, as well as trauma surgery. Dr. Bini also served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force, and was an Emergency War Surgery Course director who deployed during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He won numerous awards during his distinguished military career, including two Meritorious Service Medals, and a Navy Commendation Medal. Dr. Bini also was awarded the Bronze Star for his combat service in Afghanistan, during which he was the chief of trauma and removed an unexploded ordnance from a patient's head.

Dr. Bini is the author of numerous medical papers, and serves as an assistant professor of medicine at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, as well as the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. His expertise has earned him membership in the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the prestigious title of fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

### **Upper Valley Medical Center**

The Troy Chamber of Commerce honored Upper Valley Medical Center with the 2018 Business Excellence Award in the large business category during its annual appreciation dinner in February. The chamber's Business Excellence awards recognize and honor businesses in Troy that have made a significant contribution to the overall good of the community. A banner featuring the award is displayed over UVMC's front entrance.

UVMC also hosted a leadership breakfast for area Chamber of Commerce executives and board members on Feb. 21. Becky Rice, UVMC's recently retired president; Terry Fry, CNO; and Larry Holland, DO, FACOG, with Premier Women's Center, spoke to the group about robotic surgery and other advancements in services and technologies at UVMC, and gave a similar presentation to members of the Tipp

City Rotary club later that day. Both presentations were well received with many questions and positive comments.

Also in February, UVMC and the UVMC Foundation partnered with the Miami County Dental Clinic to help encourage families to "Stop the Pop" for Children's Dental Health Month. The educational campaign focused on encouraging children and adults alike to drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages. As part of the program, students in all Miami County schools received educational information to take home, and "Stop the Pop" posters went up in schools, libraries, pediatrician offices, and the Miami County Public Health Department.



*From left, Lauren Bowman, an Ohio State University dental student, and Natalie Via, a dental assistant at the Miami County Dental Clinic, provide care to a clinic patient.*

UVMC Imaging Director Jacqui Rose participated in a national multi-stakeholders summit Feb. 20 to discuss development of a coordinated series of recommendations on implementing the statutory requirement that requires ordering physicians to consult a clinical decision support mechanism/appropriate use criteria as a condition of payment for certain advanced imaging services. The gathering, hosted by the Association for Medical Imaging Management, was significant in that it was the first time all stakeholders came together in one meeting for this type of important dialogue.

# Installation of Unused Medication Receptacles at Premier Health Hospitals

More than 70 percent of people using opioids for nonmedical reasons get them from family and friends, according to the American Medical Association.

As part of our health system's ongoing commitment to address opioid addiction in the communities that we serve, Premier Health is making it more convenient for employees and residents to safely dispose of unused medications at any time at several Premier Health sites.

The receptacles will be available around-the-clock at the following locations:

- Atrium Medical Center: front lobby beside gift shop

- Good Samaritan North Health Center: lobby beside retail pharmacy
- Miami Valley Hospital: beside the Apple Street elevators (first floor)
- Miami Valley Hospital South: bed tower lobby outside maternity center entrance
- Upper Valley Medical Center: at the foot of the main staircase in the hospital lobby

A receptacle will not be installed at Good Samaritan Hospital's Philadelphia Drive campus during the remainder of its operations. A receptacle also has not been placed at the Premier Health Center at 110 N. Main St. in Dayton, which does not have the required terminal distributor and Drug Enforcement Administration licenses.

We recommend that you place your unused medication in plastic baggies instead of bottles. The unused drugs will be incinerated in an environmentally appropriate manner. It is not appropriate to use the receptacles to dispose of needles, syringes, aerosolized cans, inhalers, thermometers, lotions, or liquids.

Our gratitude goes out to PNC Foundation, which provided the grant that funded the receptacles through Premier Health's foundations. Learn more about efforts to address the epidemic of addiction in our community at [opioidassist.com](http://opioidassist.com), a website operated by Premier Health.

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## Atrium Health Center Mason Transitioning Emergency Services to Urgent Care

Three years ago, Atrium Medical Center expanded farther south in the Cincinnati market with the opening of Atrium Health Center Mason on Mason-Montgomery Road. The center houses 24/7 emergency services, as well as physician offices for Premier Health Family Medicine and the Center for Women's Health and Wellness. Ancillary services include laboratory and imaging.

We've since learned that many patients use the emergency center for needs that could be better met with a lower cost urgent care setting. Also, overall patient volumes at Mason Emergency Center have not reached levels sufficient to continue to operate emergency services.

For those reasons, we are converting Mason Emergency Center to a Premier Health Urgent Care Center. We expect the transition to be complete by the end of August.

We would personally like to thank our Mason Emergency Center staff for their efforts to raise awareness about Premier Health in Mason and for their dedication to delivering the best patient care. Mason Emergency Center has always performed in the 90th percentile of patient satisfaction scores.

This is not an easy decision, and as part of Premier Health's 2020 strategic plan launched earlier this year, it is a decision being made from a position of financial strength. By adjusting our services in

response to patient demand, we are proactively putting Atrium Medical Center in the best position possible to succeed in our increasingly competitive health care environment in the southern Dayton and northern Cincinnati market.

Atrium's goal is to offer each Mason Emergency Center employee a position within the Premier Health system.

Atrium Health Center Mason is not closing, and we will continue to invest in Mason's service offerings. Physician offices and ancillary services including laboratory and imaging are remaining open. Hours and the types of ancillary services offered will change to support the physician offices in the building and the new urgent care. In fact, Premier Health Family Medicine is under construction to remodel and expand its office in the building to accommodate more primary health providers.

Atrium employees with questions about the announcement can call the president's hotline at x8022 or email Mike Uhl at [mruhl@premierhealth.com](mailto:mruhl@premierhealth.com).

Atrium employees with HR-related questions can email Atrium HR Assistant Michaela Stewart at [mmstewart@premierhealth.com](mailto:mmstewart@premierhealth.com). A member of the HR team will respond to you.

# Reflecting on the Spanish Flu of 1918

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the great influenza pandemic of 1918 – also known as the Spanish flu. It has been estimated that between 50 million and 100 million people died as a result of this epidemic. The infection prevention teams across Premier Health thought this year would provide the perfect opportunity to remind our health care teams of the significance of these events and the important role we all play in patient safety and public health.

The deaths caused by the Spanish flu represented up to 5 percent of the world's population – more than half a billion people were infected. This flu was remarkable in that it cut short the lives of otherwise healthy young adults, as opposed to children and the elderly, who usually suffer most. Some have called it the greatest pandemic in history.

The Premier Health infection prevention teams plan to display several banners throughout our hospitals this year highlighting several key interventions that promote improved practices for us as a hospital community. The topics you will see include: handwashing, antibiotic safety, immunizations, and prevention of health care associated infections. We seek to deliver meaningful messages on each of these topics and invite our physicians, staff, and visitors to participate in sharing the awareness and join in our passion.

The 1918 flu pandemic has been a regular subject of conversation within the epidemiology and public health communities. Given decades of medical advancements, we are optimistic that we will never experience the number of catastrophic deaths that were seen 100 years ago.

Through this campaign, we plan to emphasize the following four points:

- It is vitally important that, as health care workers, we remain vigilant about washing our hands every time we enter and exit our patients' rooms.
- It is equally important that we exercise good practices when prescribing antibiotics, and that we demonstrate good stewardship – reserving antibiotics for use only when needed.
- It is important to understand the importance of vaccine-preventable diseases and the role we play in encouraging their use.
- We must make every effort to keep our patients safe by preventing health care-associated infections. Ensuring that these efforts work synergistically advances Premier Health's mission of helping to build healthier communities.

1918 | 100 YEARS OF HYGIENE EXCELLENCE SINCE THE FLU PANDEMIC | 2018



## What is the RIGHT WAY TO WASH YOUR HANDS?

**WET**

*Wet your hands* with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

**LATHER**

*Lather your hands* by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

**SCRUB**

*Scrub your hands* for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

**RINSE**

*Rinse your hands* well under clean, running water.

**DRY**

*Dry your hands* using a clean towel or air dry them.

 Premier Health



# Good Samaritan Hospital Transition – EPIC Inpatient Physician Support

In preparation for moving to a new Premier Health facility, Good Samaritan Hospital providers should review their order set usage and understand that where they are going might involve a different order set (preferences, etc.).

To support this transition, Premier Health is offering open sessions in the Medical Staff Lounge at Good Samaritan Hospital throughout May.

The twice-weekly sessions are scheduled for each Tuesday and Wednesday. Available times are as follows:

May 1	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 2	Wednesday	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 8	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 9	Wednesday	11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 15	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 16	Wednesday	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 22	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 23	Wednesday	11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 29	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 30	Wednesday	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These dates and times are also posted in the lounge. Please see Tanya Webber if you would like to set up a specific time. Arrangements can also be made to meet with one of the EPIC Inpatient trainers at another location.

## 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)

**Good Samaritan Hospital** go to [goodsamdayton.org/ournewphysicians](http://goodsamdayton.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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