

Regional Provider Outreach Newsletter

June 2008

Greetings medical colleagues,

I am pleased to provide you an update on EMMC programs and specialists since my last newsletter 12/07.

EMMC planning for major new development of inpatient care tower: in response to increasing Referral needs of Northern / Eastern Maine hospitals.

EMMC is in the midst of intensive planning process and state Certificate of Need (CON) process for a major redevelopment to increase our Critical Care & Specialty Service capacity within the surgical, heart, and women and infants facilities at EMMC.

EMMC serves 21 of 38 Maine hospitals which are located in the Northern and Eastern Maine referral region. 12 of these hospitals are Critical Access designation needing a regional referral center for patients requiring hospitalization more than 96 hours. Half of all our admissions come from outside the Bangor Primary Service Area. EMMC has been operating at or over full capacity much of this winter and the emergency room is usually full to capacity. EMMC leadership realizes there is a need to update and expand critical care and tertiary care services at EMMC in order to be responsive to the growing regional healthcare needs and demographic changes in our region. The inpatient tower plan will focus on increasing our room capacity to operate closer to our licensed capacity, updating operating rooms with the most modern surgical technology and increasing the number of intensive care and private beds with departmental adjacency to enhance efficiency, quality and patient safety. This multi phase, multi year plan has been developed in close collaboration with input from regional healthcare providers and hospital CEOs. The advantages will include a gain of 61 beds, an increase in private rooms from 169 to 275, an increase in critical care beds by 12 and a new neonatal intensive care unit with an increase of 7 beds and a new OB unit. There will be Centers of Excellence in Woman and Infants Services, Advanced Surgical Care of Maine, and the Heart Center. The respective Centers will involve physical co-location of patient rooms with respective diagnostic and procedure facilities. The design, development and construction planning has been in active phase through out this year and approval of Certificate of Need is eagerly anticipated this summer. After which construction would begin in 2009 – 2011 era.

First High Field Open Bore MRI in Northern and eastern Maine:

This unique state of the art MRI has been placed at the EMMC Healthcare Mall on Union Street to provide increasing efficiency and convenience for patients with special needs such as claustrophobia and obesity. It will be particularly helpful in diagnostic and therapeutic planning for cancer, diabetes, heart and vascular diseases associated with obesity.

WELCOME PHYSICIANS TO EMMC

Medical Service

GI – Phillip Amidon, MD has joined Gastroenterology Associates of Eastern Maine. He comes from Dalhousie and Loma Linda and will be particularly focused at EMMC for gastroenterology consultations.

Neurology – Sally Kirkpatrick MD has returned to Bangor and Neurology Associates of Eastern Maine where she is focused on behavioral neurology with adults and children down to 3 years of age.

Northeast Cardiology Associates – has announced the addition of **Dr. Armit Guptan** joining **Dr. Talreja** in providing cardiac electrophysiology services.

EMMC Inpatient Services – The EMMC hospitalist service (EMIC) – one of the largest in the nation with 34 physicians; has welcomed **Leith Al-Sawalha, MD** and **Dean Redding, DO**.

Pediatric – Valerie O’Hara, DO has joined Husson Pediatrics. She has recently been practicing in the Presque Isle region. **Katarina Prokopova, MD** has joined Penobscot Pediatrics at PCHC.

Family Medicine - James Jarvis, MD has been named the new Residency Director. He comes from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. **Dustin Worth, DO** has joined the family medicine residency faculty.

Anesthesia – Lewis Irwin, MD has joined EMMC Anesthesia Services – trained at Medical College of Virginia and Fletcher Allen.

Surgical Service

General & Trauma – Amy Fenwick, MD has joined Surgery and Trauma Specialists of Maine – coming from University of Connecticut.

ENT – Chris Smith, MD will be joining the EMMC ENT group with **Drs. Williams and Edwards**.

NEW EMMC OUTREACH PROGRAMS

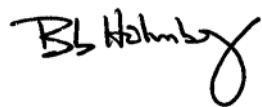
Neuropsychology – Dr. Podraza has recently developed a neuro psych consultation and testing service at TAMC.

Pediatric Orthopedic Clinic – Drs. Greene and Waanders have developed a pediatric orthopedic clinic at Inland hospital in Waterville.

Vascular surgery: Dr. Cambria and Vascular Care of Maine have recently initiated a vascular clinic at Inland Medical Center.

Outreach Department – Our EMMC Outreach Department is committed to the mission of improving regional healthcare by continually improving support of regional physicians from the specialty service and physicians at Eastern Maine Medical Center. Our team includes Tom Violette – Regional Provider Relations; Lisa Miller – Bangor Provider Relations; Dr. Norman Dinerman, Medical Director, Transport Medicine & Access Management System; Valerie Getchell – Outreach Coordinator and myself – Outreach and Telemedicine Services Director. Please feel free to contact us with any specific concerns, ideas or requests regarding patient care and provider relations at phone numbers or email addresses listed on first page.

Respectfully,



Robert Holmberg, MD
Director Clinical Outreach

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