PCH and CAMC Work Together on Patient Care

The Princeton Community Hospital (PCH) Board of Directors approved the implementation of a clinical affiliation agreement with Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

The announcement follows a comprehensive three-year strategic planning process by the PCH Board of Directors. The purpose of this clinical affiliation is to strengthen both organizations and to enhance the quality of health care in southern West Virginia. Fred St. John, President of the PCH Board of Directors commented, “This is a wonderful opportunity that will provide additional resources to our medical staff and employees as we navigate through the new health care changes.”

“We want this affiliation to send a positive message to the community,” said Wayne Griffith, PCH Chief Executive Officer. “It is our desire to work together to provide quality care for the patients in our communities. PCH will remain a community-owned, not-for-profit hospital.”

(continued)
“With the ever changing health care landscape, the future of both organizations is stronger with a closer collaboration,” said David Ramsey, CAMC Chief Executive Officer. “We have always worked well with Princeton Community Hospital. We are both community-based nonprofit institutions with similar missions. The clinical affiliation agreement will result in an increased collaborative effort to improve care and cost.”

Initially, PCH and CAMC will form clinical affiliation teams for cardiac care, oncology and quality. These teams will meet to identify improvements in care, collaboration and quality for the programs. Developing rural residency rotations at PCH is also a future goal.

This agreement is not just a win-win for the two hospitals, but a win for the patients in southern West Virginia.

PCH Mammography Department Earns ACR Re-accreditation

Princeton Community Hospital has been awarded a three-year term of re-accreditation in mammography as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). Mammography is a specific type of imaging test that uses a low-dose x-ray system to examine breasts. A mammogram is used to aid in the early detection and diagnosis of breast diseases in women.
The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report they can use for continuous practice improvement.

The ACR is a national professional organization serving more than 36,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicists, and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

A Breast Center at PCH

Princeton Community Hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of care and monitoring for patients with diseases of the breast. In that spirit the hospital recently applied for accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.

The National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) is a consortium of national, professional organizations focused on breast health and dedicated to the improvement of quality care and outcomes of patients with diseases of the breast through evidence-based standards and patient and professional education.

This comprehensive certification program consists of the following components essential for the highest quality of breast care:

- Imaging
- Needle Biopsy
- Pathology
- Interdisciplinary Conference
- Patient Navigation
- Genetic Evaluation and Management
- Surgical Care
- Plastic Surgery Consultation/Treatment
- Nursing
- Medical Oncology Consultation/Treatment
- Radiation Oncology Consultation/Treatment
- Data Management
- Research
- Education, Support, and Rehabilitation
- Outreach and Education
- Quality Improvement
- Survivorship Program

The standards for certification establishes the medical director and/or co-directors, and interdisciplinary steering committee as the Breast Program Leadership (BPL) responsible and accountable for breast center activities. They identify the scope of clinical services needed to provide quality breast care to patients. The managing physician is essential to coordinating a multidisciplinary team approach to patient care. Certification ensures excellence to promote advancement in prevention, early diagnosis and treatment through the provision of clinical trial information, and research protocols.

The standards ensure that breast cancer education, prevention, and early detection opportunities are provided to the community, patients, and their families. This promotes breast center staff participation in local, regional, or national educational activities and ensures that breast services, care, and patient outcomes are evaluated and improved continuously.

Each year the breast program leadership will conduct or participate in two or more studies that measure quality and/or patient outcomes and the findings will be communicated and discussed with the breast center staff, participants of the interdisciplinary conference, and the cancer committee.

Rose Morgan, RN, BSN, MS, CENP, ACHE
Vice President Patient Care Services
PCH and The Pavilion Participate in Happy Hearts Day

CASE WV Commission on Aging hosted the annual Happy Hearts Day on February 19 at the Trent Street Multipurpose Senior Center in Princeton. The event was sponsored by Senior Focus.

February is American Heart Month and Happy Hearts Day is designed to bring heart health awareness to area senior citizens. The celebration also includes a heart-smart lunch, educational programs, and musical performances.

PCH and The Pavilion had a booth at the event where novelty gift items and literature were distributed, and free cholesterol checks were administered by the PCH lab.

The Pavilion Director of Business Development Connie Cochran distributed heart shaped boxes, letter openers, and stress balls, along with information and literature on services available at the Behavioral Health Pavilion of the Virginias.
Influenza activity across the United States remains elevated in some parts of the country while others are seeing declines. According to Medical Director of Emergency Services Dr. Amos Lane, PCH has seen a slight leveling off of the number of flu or flu-like cases, however, the severity of recent cases has increased significantly. Many infants, children, and younger people in their 20s and 30s are exhibiting life-threatening symptoms.

Dr. Lane indicated that never before has he admitted this many patients to the hospital with the flu. Typically, flu patients are treated with symptomatic therapy and sent home. Dr. Lane said, “Many of the folks coming to the ER in recent weeks with flu-like symptoms already have very low oxygen levels and generalized pneumonia in both lungs (acute respiratory distress syndrome). I have admitted six or seven patients in February and transferred several to other facilities. I question why so many young people are being affected this season. Flu usually impacts the elderly to a greater extent, but that is not the case this year. I can only conclude that the elderly have built up more of an immunity to this strain and have benefited from the flu vaccines. Also, healthy young adults are often not vaccinated.”

Several patients diagnosed in the Princeton Community Hospital emergency room with the flu had received the vaccine. However, it is possible that their condition would have been much worse had they not been inoculated. Princeton Community Hospital pathologist Dr. Gopal Pardasani suggested there are two prevalent myths in the area regarding the flu vaccine, both of which should be dispelled. Myth 1: the flu vaccine is ineffective, and Myth 2: the vaccine causes the flu. Both are false. A flu vaccine is your best defense against contracting the flu. PCH requires annual flu vaccinations for all hospital employees and distributes thousands of free flu vaccines each year in an effort to help protect the health of the public.

Dr. Lane offered several suggestions for ways to help prevent the flu during this season:

• Keep small children and infants away from crowded areas such as stores, shopping centers, restaurants, and sporting events
• Children and adults should wash hands often
• Children should be told not to put their hands to their eyes or mouth
• Do not share food or drinks
• Avoid kissing and intimacy
• Avoid people who have the flu
• Across all generations, the most important advice for helping to prevent the flu is to be vaccinated.

On February 13 and 14, a major winter storm blanketed the area with 18 inches of snow.

I am always in awe of the dedication, understanding, and hard work of all the PCHA staff to adapt and continue main operations in the face of such conditions.

Mark S. Pickett RN
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator / Education Department Instructor
On February 19, eight members of The Daughters of Jerusalem, a women’s group from Fairview Christian Community Church, Princeton, distributed prayer pillows to patients interested in receiving them at the hospital.

The new Prayer Pillow Ministry was introduced by Linda Joyce and launched by The Daughters of Jerusalem in January 2013.

Four of the members sew the pillows at their homes. One day each month the group comes together to stuff the pillows and insert a prayer card, a scripture card, and an anointed prayer cloth into pockets sewn into each pillow.

The pillows are distributed to hospitals, nursing homes, to the clergy, and to individuals in need.

Pillows made specifically for men, women, infants, children, and teens have been mailed throughout the United States. As of February 2014, approximately 1,600 pillows have been distributed.

The prayer pillows are available to anyone in need at no charge. Donations are accepted.

If you would like a prayer pillow or more information on the ministry, please call Linda Joyce at 304.920.5086 or the church at 304.425.2029.

February 9 through 16 was designated Practice Random Acts of Kindness Week. In that spirit, Phyllis Mikels in Human Resources organized a winter apparel drive. Collection boxes were placed throughout the hospital along with the request for donations of new or gently used gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, sweaters, and coats in all sizes.

Once again, hospital employees demonstrated their great kindness and generosity with the donation of hundreds of items. The gifts were split between the Union Mission and the Princeton Salvation Army.

Right: Sondra Gillespie and Phyllis Mikels in the HR Department with some of the donated items.
Janice Hutchens Approaching 43 Years of Service to PCH

Raised in Oliver Springs, Tennessee, near Oak Ridge, Janice “Janie” Hutchens moved to Princeton when she was five years old. Her father Maurice Delung owned an Ashland Oil service station near the present location of Lowe’s in Princeton. He also owned a pottery house and an ice house that supplied ice for produce trucks since most trucks at the time were not refrigerated. Janice’s mother Helen was a teacher’s aide, and was also very active in the church and the community. Mr. Delung was a native of Athens, West Virginia. While living in Tennessee, he was a heavy equipment operator at Y-12 Atomic City/Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge was established in 1942 as a production site for the Manhattan Project.

Janice is a graduate of Princeton Senior High School. She was enrolled as a business major at Bluefield State College but left school in order to accept a position at Princeton Community Hospital in June 1971. When Janice first came to PCH she wore several hats including ER registration, outpatient registration, and television monitor. At the time, patients were charged a fee for watching television! It was Janice’s job to go from room to room to either lock or unlock the television set depending on the patient’s willingness to pay.

From 1973 to 1993, Janice worked as a full-time switchboard operator. Since 1993, she has served as switchboard supervisor. Switchboard was originally located at the main entrance in a glassed-in office that was shared with the cashier, Kay Bailey. Kay joined PCH in December 1970. She and Janice worked together for many years and became best friends – more like sisters. They each covered for the other when one had to leave the office. Kay retired at the end of 2009, but their life-long friendship continues to this day.

Janice and her husband Charles Hutchens have been married 35 years. They met here at PCH when he worked in purchasing. Charles later became a policeman with the City of Princeton and has since retired.

Janice had one son, James Edward Knight, who passed away in an automobile accident on November 2, 2002. Janice and Charles’ great joy in life is their 11-year-old granddaughter Jessy Leigh Knight. Jessy spends every other weekend at their home. She and her PawPaw Charlie are especially close.

Janice has four siblings living in Louisiana, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida. When their mother passed away in 1995, the brother and four sisters made a pact to get together for a family vacation/reunion every two years. That tradition has continued with the family renting a large vacation home for a week in various locations including North Lake and Gatlinburg, Tennessee; Topsail, North Carolina; Key West, Florida; and Annapolis, Maryland. In May, they will meet in Bay of St. Louis, Mississippi.

In her spare time, Janice enjoys reading, cooking, and baking. She and Charles are both ham radio operators and enjoy communicating with folks from around the world. Janice is a member of Johnson’s Chapel in Princeton where she has attended since a very young age.
Mountain Joe’s’s Coffee Kiosk Now Open!

Mountain Joe’s is in the Parkview Center is now open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30. Once fully operational, the hours will be extended to 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mountain Joe’s features Starbucks coffee products, other beverages, sandwiches, salads, pastries, and other baked goods.

We accept cash, check for the amount of purchase, credit/debit cards, and quick charge for employees.

We are unable to accept Starbucks gift cards, coupons or promotions. Employee discounts do not apply to Starbucks coffee, but do apply to all food items that are discounted in the cafe.

Shay Smith, Nutrition Services, invites everyone to stop by Mountain Joe’s to start their day off right, or, at mid-day for a healthy lunch.

Benefits Blog by Janet Horn

Human Resources Week is March 17 through March 21. Because we recognize that our employees are our best asset, HR has been working to provide a Health and Wellness Fair for employees during that week. Our goal is to provide information on improving health, exploring educational opportunities, defining personal safety, developing a financial plan, plus a lot more. This is only a small sample of what we have scheduled so far:

- Free Glucose and Cholesterol screening for employees and spouses on March 19, 20, and 21 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Education Classroom 1 & 2.

- Self-Defense and Awareness Class on Friday, March 21st at 5:30 pm in Education Classroom 3. – Jason Dillow

- Complete Wellness Fair on March 21 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors include:
  - Princeton Health and Fitness Center
  - Curves
  - Hear Again
  - Shaklee Products – Pure and Natural
  - PEIA – Angela Watkins
  - American Cancer Society

Be sure to watch for updates as more vendors and speakers are being scheduled daily.

Birthday Bash with the CEO for March Birthdays

Tuesday, March 18 • The luncheon will be held in the boardroom at 12:00 p.m.
To reserve your place at the table, please RSVP to Crystal Mabe by email or by calling extension 7242 at least four days prior to the luncheon.

New signs were installed at PCH in late-February. The emergency entrance sign will be the next to be revamped.

Signs of the Time