NMMC, Air Methods to Expand Air Medical Services to Three Bases in Northeast Mississippi

Area residents’ access to air medical services will be enhanced through a new agreement between North Mississippi Medical Center and Air Methods that will go into effect in 2016. The agreement will include combining NMMC’s CareFlight medical helicopter service based at Tupelo Regional Airport, Air Methods’ base at Winona/Montgomery County Airport and a new base at Golden Triangle Regional Airport in Columbus. A CareFlight helicopter will be located at each base of operations, with pilots provided by Air Methods and staffed by a critical care nurse and a paramedic with specialized equipment and training to transport critical patients. All three locations will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NMMC and Air Methods have partnered on the Tupelo-based air medical services for 29 years, and Air Methods began service in Winona two years ago with an Airbus Helicopter AS350 B2. NMMC will receive a new state-of-the-art Bell 407 GX, which will be located in Tupelo, and the Airbus Helicopter AS350 B2, which has been in service in Tupelo since 2006, will be relocated to Columbus. Having helicopters located in three northeast Mississippi counties will shorten flight times and enable the flight crews to reach patients in Grenada, Corinth, Starkville, Columbus, West Point and Amory in approximately 20 minutes.

“We’re pleased to join Air Methods in the provision of expanded air medical services to northeast Mississippi,” said Dennis Hebner, administrative director of NMMC’s CareFlight. “Our staff realizes the importance of the golden hour and knows that the hour immediately following a traumatic injury is the best time to increase the chance of survival. The golden hour is also vital in improving outcomes for trauma, heart attack and stroke patients.”

NMMC is designated as a Level II trauma center by the Mississippi State Department of Health. To receive this designation, facilities must offer a full range of trauma capabilities, including an Emergency Department, a full service surgical suite, intensive care unit and diagnostic imaging, as well as make a commitment to
consistently meet national guidelines or standards in caring for trauma patients.

Air Methods, based in Englewood, Colo., is the global leader in air medical transportation. The Air Medical Services Division is the largest provider of air medical transport services for hospitals and one of the largest community-based providers of air medical services. United Rotorcraft Division specializes in the design and manufacture of aeromedical and aerospace technology. Air Methods’ fleet of owned, leased or maintained aircraft features more than 450 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

**NMMC Cancer Care Welcomes New Doctor**

NMMC Cancer Care welcomes Nikolaos “Dr. Nik” Myriounis, M.D., for the practice of hematology and oncology.

Dr. Myriounis received his medical education at the University of Athens School of Medicine in Athens, Greece. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Berkshire Medical Center, University of Massachusetts in Pittsfield. He completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Tufts University, in Brighton, Mass.

NMMC Hematology and Oncology is located at 961 S. Gloster St. in Tupelo. For more information or to make a referral, call (662) 377-4550.

**NMMC Announces New Shuttle Service**

A free shuttle service that launched Dec. 14 is making it easier for area residents to conquer the hill leading to North Mississippi Medical Center’s front entrance.

The NMMC Auxiliary donated funds for the hospital to purchase a new shuttle bus and shuttle stops strategically located in the parking lot.

“This bus service project for the hospital has been discussed for a long time. Everyone has felt it was sorely needed – both for the patients and the visitors,” said Donna Hambrick, president of the NMMC Auxiliary. “The Auxiliary felt it was an excellent use of our monies that we earn through the hospital Gift and Floral Shop, so we provided the funds for the bus and the waiting area stands.”

The shuttle service runs from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and from noon until 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The shuttle runs continually and includes four stops – the lower east parking lot, south parking lot, outpatient entrance and main lobby doors.

“Thanks to our auxiliary, our patients and visitors will now have an option for navigating our parking lot. This new shuttle service will follow a predictable path and make several stops, making it a great alternative to those who may need assistance,” said NMMC President David Wilson. “We are very appreciative of our Auxiliary helping us fill this much requested need. Our goal is to continue making improvements that will enhance the service we provide to our patients and community.”

NMMCs new 2015 model bus is 23 feet long and seats 14 passengers. Seats are located around the perimeter of the interior, making it easily accessible for passengers.

Two shuttle stops have been installed – one in the parking lot just south of the lobby entrance and one in the lower east parking lot. The stops are enclosed on three sides to help protect those waiting in inclement weather. Both shuttle stops are well lit and are within view of security cameras.

“This is one of those projects where everybody wins – the hospital, the Auxiliary and the public,” Hambrick said. “When everybody wins, everybody benefits.”

For more information about NMMCs new shuttle service, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

**NMMC Wellness Center Special**

Area residents can join an NMMC Wellness Center in Tupelo, Baldwyn and Pontotoc for only $30 throughout January. No contract is
necessary. The NMMC-Tupelo Wellness Center announces expanded hours beginning Feb. 1:
4 a.m.-Midnight
Monday-Thursday
4 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday

IRB Approves, Renews Studies
The NMHS Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently oversees more than 80 biomedical and behavioral studies. The IRB meets monthly and the following studies were approved and renewed at the December meeting.

New Study:
Study: A Phase II, Randomized, Double-blind Study to Evaluate the Safety, Efficacy, and Pharmacokinetics of Vepoloxamer Injection, 22.5% (Sodium-Free) in Ambulatory Subjects with Chronic Heart Failure (MST-188-09)
Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates
Summary: In this study, vepoloxamer as a sodium-free infusion will be compared to placebo in chronic heart failure subjects to determine if heart function improves.

Study Renewals:
Study: CLAS - St. Jude Medical Cardiac Lead Assessment (60039775/F)
Investigators: Karl Crossen, M.D. (PI); Keith Kyker, M.D.; James Stone, M.D.
Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the prevalence of abrasions and cracks in cardiac leads that can be seen on X-ray. Enrollment is open.

Investigators: David Talton, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates; Cardiothoracic Surgeons
Summary: The objective of this study is to confirm that modifications to tissue processing, valve sterilization and packaging of the FDA-approved Edwards Pericardial Mitral Bioprosthesis Model 1100M is safe and effective. Enrollment is open.
Continuing Medical Education

The CME Program is based in the NMMC Education Department and works to provide quality educational programming that will meet general as well as specific professional needs. Please call (662) 377-3826 or the Consult Line at 1-800-952-8101 if you have CME comments and/or suggestions. Select CME programs are by invitation only and are also subject to change.


January 6-7
ACLS 2-Day Provider Course
8 a.m., NMMC North Education Center

January 8
Neuro/Radiology Case Studies
1 p.m., NMMC North Education Center
Room 7/8

January 19-20
PALS 2-Day Provider Course
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
NMMC North Education Center

January 29
2016 Emergency Medicine Conference
8 a.m., NMMC North Education Center

February 20
2016 GI Conference
8 a.m., NMMC North Education Center