

practice notes

February 2011

Preliminary Work Begins On NMMC's West Bed Tower

In preparation for construction on the **new five-story west bed tower** that will enlarge and upgrade 250 patient rooms, North Mississippi Medical Center will make changes in parking areas that currently border Gloster Street.

In January, a northwest parking lot that is primarily used by staff and vendors was demolished, and several parking places near the admission/discharge entry are closed for the installation of a replacement generator fuel tank. This work results in the temporary closing of some handicapped parking spaces.

Also as part of the preparations, NMMC will relocate the entrance to the Admission and Discharge office from the hospital's first floor to the south lobby in February. The parking area located outside the current Admissions and Discharge office will close. The hospital's visitor entrance has a circle drive with a covered awning that can be used for patient pick up and drop off. Members of the Ambassador Services and Security staff will be available to assist individuals as they exit their vehicles to enter the building.

The lobby, which has a large yellow sign over the revolving door entrance, is the main entrance for visitors to inpatient areas. The best parking option for inpatient services is the visitors parking lot, which is accessible from Garfield Street. The East Tower or outpatient entrance offers easy access to outpatient services and is identifiable by a large blue sign over the revolving door. Patients using those services are asked to park in the southeast parking deck located near the East Tower at the corner of Council Circle and Garfield Street.

As part of the west bed tower project, patient rooms located on the west side of the hospital will be enlarged from approximately 165 square feet to

approximately 265 square feet. Each room will have three distinct zones for the patient, family and hospital staff. The patient area will include a comfortable bed, shower, built-in bedside table and wall closet, as well as two recliners. Other enhancements include bedside control of everything in the room, including room temperature, lights and window blinds.

Each of the five floors is designed to include 44 patient rooms. Sixteen rooms will be located in the existing area, and 28 new rooms will be constructed. A wide corridor will connect the two sections.

The project will take 3 1/2 years to complete. Project updates are available by visiting www.nmhs.net/tupelo/west_bed_tower.php.

Employee Engagement Survey Honors

North Mississippi Health Services took high honors in the **2010 HR Solutions Employee Engagement/Opinion Survey Award** among a field of 790 companies representing various business sectors across the United States.

NMHS received second place in the Highest Actively Engaged Population. The top honor went to AtlantiCare of Egg Harbor Township, N.J. Both NMMC and AtlantiCare are recipients of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

"This is great external validation that we're focused on the right things," said John Heer, NMHS president and chief executive officer. "Our Critical Success Factors (People, Service, Quality, Financial and Growth) define who we are as an organization. The first of those is People. Our philosophy is that if we have motivated, engaged employees coming to work every day, we will have better patient satisfaction and higher quality. This leads to adequate financial results and appropriate growth."



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Kevin Sheridan, president and CEO of HR Solutions, said, "Their results on the Employee Engagement Survey are first-hand evidence that North Mississippi Health Services is a cut above the rest." HR Solutions is a Chicago-based Human Resource Firm, specializing in Employee, Satisfaction, Engagement and Exit Survey design, implementation, analysis and results.

In addition to this award, NMHS achieved the 94th percentile nationally and Best in Class scores in 15 of 18 dimensions on its most recent employee opinion survey. Ninety percent of NMHS' full-time employees completed the survey in May. NMHS has an annual employee retention rate of 94 percent.

NMMC Behavioral Health Center Now Offering 24/7 Assessments

The **NMMC Behavioral Health Center** is now offering assessments 24/7 through NMMC Emergency Departments.

"We realize that just as no medical emergency is planned, mental health emergencies are the same," said Joy Johnson, outreach manager.

From 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. walk-ins are accepted at the Behavioral Health Center, located at 4579 S. Eason Blvd. Assessments are available at NMMC Emergency Departments around the clock. There is no fee for an assessment.

"There are times when there is not a crisis, but the person may be looking for mental health services such as counseling, testing, and drug and alcohol treatment," Johnson said. "We are here to link patients with the appropriate level of treatment."

An assessment is a very thorough interview by a licensed professional in the field of mental health. Once all data is collected in the interview process, a psychiatrist is consulted and a recommendation for treatment is made. Individuals get a full explanation of the recommendations and are given the steps needed to accomplish them.

In addition to walk-ins, appointments and referrals are also welcome. NMMC Behavioral Health has inpatient and outpatient programs for patients who need treatment. Available treatments include psychological testing, alcohol and drug addiction treatment, individual counseling, group counseling and medication evaluations. Inpatient treatment is varied and customized for each individual. A senior care unit offers a comprehensive approach in treating senior patients.

For more information on assessments or to make a referral, call (662) 377-3161.

Cancer Program Annual Report Available

The **2009 Cancer Program Annual Report** is now available online. The report includes data analysis, statistics, a report from the Cancer Committee chair, a liaison report and much more valuable information related to cancer. To view, visit www.nmhs.net/cancer_center and click on "Annual Reports."

Physician Leadership Institute Underway

North Mississippi Health Services recently began a **new program** for current and future physician leaders. The program will provide an opportunity for physicians to gain a greater understanding of NMHS, its mission and actual operation, and foster additional skills in the areas of leadership, finance, strategic planning, operations and the medico-legal aspects of health care.

Participants in this session include Drs. Jay Dey, Charles King, Charles Montgomery, Amit Prasad and Vishal Sachdev. They will attend one Saturday session per month.

Another opportunity to participate will be available at the end of this six-month session.

The program is coordinated by Brian Condit, M.D., director of the Physician Leadership Institute, and Mark S. Williams, M.D., chief medical officer. For more information visit www.nmhs.net/physician_leadership_institute.php.

New Technology at Outpatient Rehab

NMMC Outpatient Rehabilitation Services staff at Longtown Medical Park announces the arrival of a new **Bio Dex system** to their orthopedic physical therapy department. Bio Dex contains several different modes, including continuous passive motion, isometric, isotonic and isokinetic for upper and lower extremities. The software also allows therapists to obtain objective data for testing or rehab purposes. The different modes allow the therapist to set up the parameters desired for specific tests and/or treatments and also allows audio and visual feedback for patients. For more information on Bio Dex, call (662) 377-7211.



NMMC, Lions Club Sponsor Eyewear Drive

NMMC is teaming up with the Lions Club of Tupelo to collect eyewear for the needy throughout February, **National Low Vision Awareness Month**. Collection boxes have been placed throughout NMMC facilities for used eyeglasses, sunglasses and reading glasses. The groups are also seeking magnification devices or any low vision equipment such as closed circuit televisions or large lighted magnifiers to donate to those in need.

The Lions Club will distribute the eyewear to those in need in the United States and third world countries worldwide. For more information or to arrange pick up of large items being donated, contact occupational therapist Cheri Nipp at Baldwin Nursing Facility, (662) 365-7840 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). NMMC's collection drive ends March 11.

IRB Approves, Renews Studies

The NMHS Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently oversees more than 90 biomedical and behavioral studies. The IRB meets monthly and the following studies were approved and renewed at the January meeting.

New Studies

Study: *A Randomized, Multicenter, Blinded, Placebo-controlled Study of Mapatumumab ([HGS1012], a Fully-Human Monoclonal Antibody to TRAIL-R1) in Combination with Sorafenib as a First-line Therapy in Subjects with Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HGS1012-C1103)*

Investigators: Christopher Croot, M.D. (PI); Hematology and Oncology Associates

Summary: The purpose of this study is tri-fold: to determine if mapatumumab in combination with sorafenib is safe, to evaluate the therapeutic benefits of the combination of the two drugs and to determine the optimal dose of mapatumumab to give future patients.

Study: *A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Investigate the Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability of TMC435 versus Placebo as Part of a Treatment Regimen including Peginterferon Alfa-2a and Ribavirin in Treatment-naïve, Genotype 1 Hepatitis C-infected Subjects (TMC435-TiDP16-C208)*

Investigators: John Phillips, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine how well TMC435 will work on slowing down or stopping the growth of hepatitis C virus, when given along with standard of care therapy.

Study: *A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Investigate the Efficacy and Safety of GSK1605786A in the Maintenance of Subjects with Crohn's Disease (CCX114157)*

Investigators: Stephen Amann, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: The purpose of this study is to compare two doses of GSK1605786A with placebo in the treatment of Crohn's disease.

Study: *An Open-label Extension Study to Assess the Safety of GSK1605786A in Subjects with Crohn's Disease (CCX114644)*

Investigators: Stephen Amann, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: The purpose of this study is to test the safety of GSK1605786A and determine how well it works for the long-term treatment of Crohn's disease.

Study: *Drug-eluting Bead, Irinotecan (DEBIRI) Therapy of Liver Metastasis from Colon Cancer with Concomitant Systemic Oxaliplatin, Fluorouracil and Leucovorin Chemotherapy, and Anti-angiogenic Therapy (UL2008.1)*

Investigators: Julian Hill, M.D. (PI); Hematology and Oncology Associates

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if the combination of trans-arterial chemo-embolization (TACE) and intravenous chemotherapy is as safe as well as more effective than intravenous chemotherapy alone.

Study Renewal

Study: *TOWER – A Multicenter, Double-blind, Parallel-group, Placebo-controlled Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Teriflunomide in Patients with Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis (EFC 10531)*

Investigators: Mark Fletcher, M.D. (PI); Tupelo Neurology Clinic

Summary: The primary purpose of this study is to assess the effect of Teriflunomide in comparison to placebo on frequency of multiple sclerosis relapses. 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. **Please RSVP upon receipt of invitation.** Visit www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal/cme.php for more information.

February 17

Medical Ethics Committee

The Ethics (Legal & Medical) of Discharging a Non-Compliant Patient

Kenneth Wheeler and Bruce Toppin

7:30 a.m., NMMC North Education Center

March 10

Medical Ethics Committee

Patient's Accountability – Its Influence in Treating the Patient

Lee Greer, M.D.

7:30 a.m., NMMC North Education Center

March 11

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

Hunt Bobo, M.D., and Robert Becker, M.D.

1 p.m., NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

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