

practice notes

A monthly
newsletter for
physicians, nurse practitioners,
physician assistants & other
health care professionals



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

May/June 2020

NMMC Cancer Care Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has granted its 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award to a select group of 49 accredited cancer programs throughout the United States, including North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo

“To meet the basic standards of care established by the CoC, programs must commit significant time and resources throughout each three-year accreditation cycle,” said Ray Reed, M.D., radiation oncologist and NMMC Cancer Committee chair. “While most programs in our region are not CoC-accredited, NMMC Cancer Care has been continuously accredited since its inception. In fact, we are the oldest continuously accredited program in the northern half of Mississippi.

“To receive the Outstanding Achievement Award is the result of many hours of hard work by an outstanding team of people whose life’s work is spent taking care of

people in their greatest time of need. I am proud to work alongside this remarkable group who dedicate their lives in service to their fellow man. This award is recognition for the exceptional patient- and family-centered care that is provided every day at NMMC, but most importantly, it recognizes our unwavering commitment to cancer patients and their families in our community.”

The purpose of the award is to raise the bar on quality cancer care, with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness about quality care choices among cancer patients and their loved ones. In addition, the award is intended to:

- Recognize those cancer programs that achieve excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients
- Motivate other cancer programs to work toward improving their level of care
- Facilitate dialogue between award recipients and health care professionals at other cancer facilities for the purpose of sharing best practices
- Encourage honorees to serve as

quality-care resources to other cancer programs

“More and more, we’re finding that patients and their families want to know how the health care institutions in their communities compare with one another,” said Lawrence N. Shulman, M.D., MACP, chair of the CoC. “They want access to information in terms of who’s providing the best quality of care, and they want to know about overall patient outcomes. Through this recognition program, I’d like to think we’re playing a small but vital role in helping them make informed decisions on their cancer care.”

The 49 award-winning cancer care programs represent approximately 7% of programs surveyed by the CoC Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2019. “These cancer programs currently represent the best of the best when it comes to cancer care,” added Dr. Shulman. “Each of these facilities is not just meeting nationally recognized standards for the delivery of quality cancer care, they are exceeding them.”

To submit information, call (662) 377-2371 or email gacausey@nmhs.net.
Visit www.nmhs.net/practice-notes to read this newsletter online.

NMHS Brings myConnection to Monroe County

North Mississippi Health Services will launch Epic, the most widely-used and comprehensive health records system, at its North Mississippi Medical Clinics locations in Monroe County on June 1.

NMHS launched Epic across its regional network of primary and specialty clinics and nursing homes as well as its telehealth services in 2019. Epic replaced several systems that were in use with a single, integrated platform for connected care, improving the experience for patients and providers. The project was too far along to incorporate North Mississippi Medical Center Gilmore-Amory and affiliated clinics to meet that launch date, but has been in the planning stages ever since joining NMHS on Jan. 1, 2019.

“We are pleased that our clinic providers at Amory Medical Clinic, Amory Specialty Clinic, Amory Children’s Clinic and Hamilton Medical Clinic will be on Epic and their patients will benefit from the convenience available through myConnection,” said David Barber, president of North Mississippi Medical Clinics and chief network development officer. “With Epic, all clinical information is in one place. Our providers can better care for their patients when they have the information they need at their fingertips.” In addition to these clinics, Gilmore-Amory’s Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center will utilize myConnection.

“We’re part of a community of the leading healthcare institutions across the nation, and we’re building on best practices to design a system that’s safe and easy to use for patients and providers,” said Ben Kilman, M.D, chief medical information officer and interim chief information officer at North Mississippi Health Services. “Over half of Mississippi residents already have a record

at an organization that uses or is currently installing Epic. This addition is a positive step for our Monroe County providers and their patients.”

Patients have access to their health history and the ability to manage their care through myConnection, NMHS’ version of Epic’s MyChart.

“Patients tell us over and over again how much they like myConnection and how it has changed how they communicate with their doctors,” Barber said.

Providers will have the ability to coordinate care with clinicians outside of NMHS who serve their patients and their families, closing care gaps and reducing duplication. Epic enables providers to exchange data easily for improved continuity of care across the region and the nation.

“Epic facilitates communication and collaboration within NMHS clinics, as well with other hospitals and clinics where our patients have received care,” Kilman said. “That means we can access the records for our patients who have received care while traveling or who have come to NMHS from another organization. We can provide better care when we know a patient’s full story.”

NMHS named their implementation of Epic “Project Connect” because of its mission to connect patients and providers with one another, with other healthcare organizations around the country, and with technology, that enables informed care. More than 900 staff members and affiliated providers will have access to Epic as part of Project Connect.

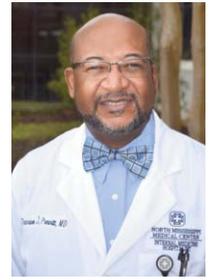
Stephen Southworth Publication

Stephen Southworth, M.D. M.B.A., FACS, had an article on “Use of IV Ibuprofen Can Reduce Opioid-Related Effects” published in the March 27 issue of Anesthesiology News. He is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon in practice with Orthopaedic Institute of North Mississippi.

NMMC Welcomes New Hospitalist

NMMC welcomes Darrion Prewitt, M.D., for the practice of hospital medicine.

Dr. Prewitt received his bachelor’s degree in biology at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and his medical degree at the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee University. He completed his internal medicine residency at St. Louis University Hospital in Missouri. He is board certified in internal medicine.



Dr. Brand Joins NMMC-West Point Medical Staff

NMMC-West Point has hired Woodrow W. Brand III, M.D., as a full-time surgeon in West Point.

Dr. Brand performs general, laparoscopic and robotic procedures at the West Point hospital.

A native of Houston, Dr. Brand earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University in 1984. He earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson in 1988 and completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1993.

Dr. Brand has been in private practice and on the medical staff of NMMC Gilmore-Amory since 1993. He opened a satellite office at Monroe General Medical Center in Aberdeen in 2015.

Dr. Brand is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery. He has a special interest in laparoscopic and robotic surgery.



Home Health Agencies: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19

An unprecedented array of temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to equip the American health care system with maximum flexibility to respond to the 2019 Novel Corona-virus (COVID-19) pandemic has been issued. These temporary changes will apply immediately across the entire U.S. health care system for the duration of the emergency declaration.

To provide the flexibility needed for more timely initiation of services for home health patients, while allowing providers and patients to practice social distancing, the following temporary waiver was issued:

Plans of Care and Certifying/Recertifying Patient Eligibility: A nurse practitioner or a physician assistant who is working in accordance with State law may:

- (1) Order home health services
- (2) Establish and periodically review a plan of care for home health services (e.g., sign the plan of care)
- (3) Certify and re-certify that the patient is eligible for Medicare home health services.

This plan will improve access for patients and decrease the burden of paperwork for physician oversight for Home Health Care.

NMMC-Tupelo, NMMC Gilmore-Amory Nationally Recognized

NMMC-Tupelo and NMMC Gilmore-Amory have both been awarded an 'A' in spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing achievements providing safer health care.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Safety Grade is a letter grade assigned to all general hospitals across the country and updated every six months, assessing how well the hospital prevents medical errors and

other harms to patients.

"We are very pleased that the two largest hospitals in our system, North Mississippi Medical Center-Tupelo and North Mississippi Medical Center Gilmore-Amory, once again received a grade 'A' from Leapfrog. This is an amazing accomplishment for any hospital but particularly so for larger hospitals," said Shane Spees, president and chief executive officer for North Mississippi Health Services.

This marks the ninth consecutive 'A' for NMMC Gilmore-Amory and the fourth consecutive 'A' for NMMC-Tupelo.

"NMMC's mission is to continuously improve the health of the people in our region, and as such we feel the responsibility and weight of the word continuous," said David Wilson, NMMC-Tupelo president. "Our outstanding team of caregivers is proud to receive the A grade for the fourth time in a row." NMMC-Tupelo is the only Level 2 Trauma Center in Mississippi to receive an 'A.'

As the nation copes with a challenging pandemic, our gratitude extends to hospital leadership and health care workers everywhere for their tremendous dedication," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We hope this 'A' helps to thank the people who work and volunteer for North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo and Amory. They are role models in putting patients first, and their service has been extraordinary in our country's time of need."

NMMC Home Infusion Services

NMMC Outpatient Infusion has offered outpatient and home infusion in north Mississippi for almost 30 years. The staff of specialists, including pharmacists, nurses, and infusion therapy prior authorization and pre-certification staff, provide the most progressive, personalized and safe care for each and every patient. Therapy is provided at the location that best meets the patient's need –

one of three convenient locations or in the home.

Therapies include:

- Antibiotics
- Immune globulin
- Blood products
- IV line care
- Anti-inflammatory agents
- Chemotherapy
- Pain management
- Iron infusions
- Specialty pharmacy medications
- Intermittent dosing regimens and multiple dosing per day can also be managed through infusion devices.

As the local connection to home and outpatient services, NMMC Outpatient Infusion:

- Offers your patients a comfortable way to receive the treatment they need
- Prepares each medication under sterile conditions
- Provides personal delivery of needed supplies
- Accepts most major insurance plans
- Coordinates therapy with the provider
- Provides professional pharmacy consultation on the use and monitoring of each patient's therapy

Locally-operated services provide a smooth referral process and easy communication with referral sources. In addition, NMMC Outpatient Infusion is connected to Epic's Care Everywhere, which means that medical records are updated in real-time, improving patient care, reducing duplication and facilitating provider communication.

For more information or to make a referral, call (662) 377-2430 or visit www.nmhs.net/outpatient-infusion.



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Continuing Medical Education

Our top priority is the safety of our patients, staff, physicians and others. In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in-person continuing education events are temporarily suspended. We encourage you to check out our online education offerings at <https://www.nmhs.net/medical-professionals/continuing-medical-education/online-learning/>. CME credits are available in a wide range of topics, from mental health to infection control

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 April meeting.

New Study:

Study: *PHDEV – Repository of Phase Signals for Pulmonary Hypertension Algorithm Development*

Investigators: Steve Carroll, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Dane

Ballard, M.D.; Barry Bertolet, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Michael Boler, D.O.; Roger Williams, M.D.

Summary: The primary objective of this study is to build a repository of resting cardiac phase signals and subject meta data from eligible subjects using the Phase Signal Recorder prior to right heart catheterization.

Study Renewal:

Study: *KNOCOUT PE – Retrospective and Prospective International EkoSonic® Registry of the Treatment and Clinical Outcomes*

of Patients with Pulmonary Embolism (BTG-001653-01)

Investigators: Benjamin Blossom, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates

Summary: The purpose of this registry is to understand how physicians are currently treating pulmonary embolism with thrombolytic drugs in combination with the EkoSonic Endovascular System (EKOS). Enrollment is open.