



# practice notes

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



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER**

June 2019

## **NMMC-Tupelo, NMMC Gilmore-Amory Receive an 'A' for Patient Safety**

North Mississippi Medical Center hospitals in Tupelo and Amory have been awarded an 'A' from The Leapfrog Group's spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.

The designation recognizes NMMC-Tupelo and NMMC Gilmore-Amory's efforts in protecting patients from harm and providing safer health care. The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' or 'F' grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care.



"We are pleased to have earned an A grade for the seventh time in a row with Leapfrog, as it recognizes the safe, quality care we provide to our patients," said Allen Tyra, administrator of the Amory hospital. "NMMC Gilmore-Amory has always been committed to providing the highest standards of care to our patients, and this grade is reflective of the hard work of our physicians and staff."

This marks the third time the Tupelo hospital has earned an 'A' grade. "We are delighted to once again receive an A grade from Leapfrog," said David Wilson, NMMC-Tupelo president. "This

clearly demonstrates our team's commitment to our mission of continuously improving the health of the people of our region. NMMC has an outstanding team of caregivers dedicated to patient safety, and this grade is a reflection of their efforts." NMMC-Tupelo is the only Level 2 Trauma Center in Mississippi to receive an 'A.'

"To be recognized nationally as an 'A' hospital is an accomplishment the whole community should take pride in," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Hospitals that earn an 'A' grade are making it a priority to protect patients from preventable medical harm and error. We congratulate hospital leaders, board members, staff, volunteers and clinicians who work so hard to earn this A."

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

## First Ultrathin Orsiro Drug-Eluting Stents Used at NMMC

On May 17, cardiologists Barry Bertolet, M.D., and Roger Williams, M.D., implanted the first BIOTRONIK ultrathin Orsiro drug-eluting stents in Mississippi at NMMC in Tupelo.

Recently in the BIO-FLOW-V study, this Orsiro stent demonstrated significantly lower rates for stent failure (37% lower) and subsequent heart attack in the same stented vessel (70% lower) as compared to the present market leading Xience stent in a large, complex patient population of 1,344. It is felt that the ultrathin stent thickness, which allows for easier crossing of complex blockages, as well as the types of coatings used to coat the stent, account for the best clinical outcomes ever witnessed in such a clinical study. The stent also comes in a variety of lengths – including the longest available in the United States.

“Patients, physicians and health systems deserve the best, and that is exactly what we are bringing to the U.S. market.” says Ryan Walters, president of BIOTRONIK Inc.

“Introduction of this technology represents another cardiology first for our region,” says Dr. Williams.

## Belmont Clinic North Mississippi Medical Clinics

Belmont Family Medical Clinic is now part of North Mississippi Medical Clinics.

The clinic, located at 26 Third St., is open from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Same-day appointments are currently available, and walk-ins are welcome.

The providers are Belmont natives Whitney Sparks, NP-C, and Chelsea Wells, NP-C. Sparks received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Capstone College of Nursing at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and her master's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing. Wells holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, and a master's degree in nursing/nurse practitioner certification from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

For more information, call (662) 454-4520 or visit [www.nmhs.net/belmont-clinic](http://www.nmhs.net/belmont-clinic).

## Lung Cancer Screening Now Available in Community Hospitals

Low-dose computerized tomography scans for lung cancer screening are now available at NMMC community

hospitals in Iuka, Eupora, West Point, Pontotoc and Hamilton, Ala.

Survival in lung cancer is directly related to the stage at time of diagnosis. Unfortunately, three-fourths of patients with lung cancer present with advanced local disease or metastasis. Low-dose CT is an effective screening tool for high-risk patients. Candidates for the screening are those who:

- Are age 55-77
- Have been a heavy smoker for the last 15 years or more, or have quit within the past 15 years
- Have no current symptoms of lung cancer (symptoms require more in-depth testing).

To schedule appointments for your patients, call (662) 377-4158.

## IRB 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 renewed at the May meeting.

### Study Renewals:

**Study: *DISRUPT PAD III – Randomized Study of the Shockwave Medical Peripheral Lithoplasty® System used in Combination with Drug-coated Balloon (DCB) versus Standard Balloon Angioplasty used in Combination with DCB to Treat Moderate and Severely Calcified Femoropopliteal Arteries (CP 60892)***

**Investigators:** Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Amit Gupta, M.D.;

Sourabh Mukherjee, M.D.;  
Joseph Stinson, M.D.

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to assess the safety and effectiveness of Lithoplasty treatment used in combination with DCB to standard balloon angioplasty used in combination with DCB when used to treat moderate to severely calcified femoropopliteal arteries. Enrollment is open.

**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.

**Study: PIONEER III – A Prospective, Multicenter, Global Randomized Controlled Trial Assessing the Safety and Efficacy of the BuMA Supreme™ Biodegradable Drug Coated Coronary Stent System for Coronary Revascularization in Patients with Stable Coronary Artery Disease or Non-ST Segment Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes (SIN-US-001)**

**Investigators:** Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Amit Gupta, M.D.; Roger Williams,

M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Lee Ferguson, ACNP; Wanda Ikeda, DNP; Katie McDuffie, CNP  
**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine if the BuMA drug eluted stent can prevent death, heart attack, and repeat procedures between one and five years after the procedure, while being as safe and effective as standard treatment during the first year. Enrollment is open.

**Study: POLARIS – Palbociclib in Hormone Receptor Positive Advanced Breast Cancer: A Prospective Multicenter Non-interventional Study (A5481082)**

**Investigators:** Paschal Wilson, M.D. (PI); Andrew Kellum, M.D.; Charles Montgomery, M.D.; Jiahuai Tan, M.D.; Ashley Gilliland, ANP; Tammy Pelegrin, ANP

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to describe and analyze the clinical use of palbociclib in routine clinical practice in the treatment of advanced breast cancer. Enrollment is open.



# NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

830 South Gloster  
Tupelo, MS 38801

Non Profit  
US Postage Paid  
North MS  
Medical Center  
38801

[www.nmhs.net/physicians\\_portal](http://www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal)



## 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](http://www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal) for more information.

**July 12**

### Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

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

**August 9**

### Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

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

**July 17-18**

### ACLS 2-Day Provider Course

NMMC North Education Center  
Call (662) 377-3448 for more information.

**August 21-24**

### Outcomes Conference

Mariott Shoals Hotel & Spa Conference Center  
Florence, Ala.  
Register online at [www.nmhs.net/cme](http://www.nmhs.net/cme) or call (662) 377-3826.

**August 2**

### Infection Control Conference

7:30 a.m., NMMC North Education Center  
Register online at [www.nmhs.net/cme](http://www.nmhs.net/cme) or call (662) 377-3826.