



# InFlight

Fall 2018

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE  
FOR FRIENDS OF HEALTHNET  
AEROMEDICAL SERVICES, INC.



Spreading a **Mission**  
of **HOPE**



HealthNet  
Aeromedical Services



## On the Cover

A HealthNet Aeromedical Services EC-135 flies with a gold ribbon honoring Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.



## Customer Profile

### City of Greenup Volunteer Fire Department

For 128 years the City of Greenup Volunteer Fire Department has proudly served the citizens of Greenup, Kentucky.

The 28-member department is responsible for covering approximately two square miles and responds to 100 to 125 emergency calls each year. Equipment includes two fire engines, a rescue unit and a ladder truck. Ladder 1 carries the name “Big Rudy” to honor former Lieutenant “Rudy” Gragg who suffered a massive heart attack at a young age. To honor their former Chief and Greenup City Mayor Jim Doran, Engine 2 was named “Big Jim.”

The Greenup VFD has built strong partnerships with the numerous other fire departments throughout Greenup County. Many educational and training events they host are open to fire fighters from any department to ensure they are prepared to work together and can provide the best service possible to their community members.

Their mission extends beyond just fire and rescue. Members participate in educational and outreach activities with the community, including several events for National Fire Prevention Month in October.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services is proud to be a trusted partner of a volunteer organization that has been a pivotal part keeping Greenup citizens safe since 1890. We look forward to serving alongside their hard-working members for years to come. \*



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# A Message From Our President/CEO

## It Begins With People

The heart of any organization lies within those who serve that organization's daily mission - those who step forward from the crowd possessing a personal commitment to service. Within the HealthNet Aeromedical Services system, we are fortunate to have so many of these individuals, giving of themselves each day to humbly serve our patients and their families at the most difficult of times.

Given the steadfast dedication exhibited by those within our team, it's fitting that we set aside time annually to recognize the contributions these professionals make each day. Later this fall we will gather at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia, for our annual Team Member Recognition Dinner. Those receiving service milestone awards will be on-hand along with their guests as we honor their service to others. Those who have achieved a specific number of patient transports or years of service will be celebrated along with persons who have achieved safety or operational excellence recognition. It makes for a wonderful evening!

A constant at the this annual affair is recognition of those with more than 30 years of service and those with more than 5,000 patient transports. We're fortunate to have so many professionals across our system who have achieved these hearty milestones. Our growing number of retirees are welcomed annually as well.

Given the tremendous challenge of their daily work, it is a rarity in our business for a crew member to hold three decades of experience or have more than 5,000 opportunities to care for others. This level of dedication and experience matters. The standard these fine individuals set creates a legacy for those who follow their footsteps. It also sets HealthNet Aeromedical Services apart from similar programs as the amount of experience our team members possess is rarely matched. We are indeed honored to have them with us and their patients are also fortunate to benefit from experience, skill set and expertise.

On behalf of our member health systems, board of directors and team members across the system, thank you for your continued confidence in us. Be assured that those recognized at this year's event along with those who'll be serving communities that evening appreciate your belief that the people of HealthNet Aeromedical Services make a lifesaving difference. \*

**Clinton V. Burley**  
HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc.  
President/CEO





# Spreading a Mission of **HOPE**



**B**lue and gold are the signature colors HealthNet Aeromedical Services aircraft have donned for more than 32 years. But in September, the fleet went a little more gold after a special request from an aircraft mechanic whose family is on a mission to raise awareness about childhood cancer.

In October 2011, Jamie Perkins and his wife Christine noticed their 18-month-old son Tre was struggling to walk. After many trips to the doctor, he received the devastating diagnosis of Stage 4 Neuroblastoma. With the support of his parents and three older siblings, Tre endured many rounds of chemo and other cancer therapies. Now 8-years-old, Tre has remained in remission and there has been no evidence of the disease since 2012.

“After you have a child diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, you realize the importance of enjoying the little things in life and sometimes this means looking for the good even during bad times or trying to be hopeful instead of thinking the worst,” said Jamie.



Tre’s journey led the Perkins family to become advocates for WV Kids Cancer Crusaders (WVKCC). The organization offers support and resources to West Virginians affected by young adult, adolescent and childhood cancer.

During the month of September, awareness efforts by the WVKCC kick in to high gear for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The group encourages businesses, organizations, government agencies and individuals to “go gold.” Gold was chosen as the color to represent childhood cancer because gold is a precious metal and represents how every child’s life is precious.

As a pilot and mechanic with HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Jamie is charged with inspecting, maintaining and flying helicopters which sole purpose are to transport ill and injured patients. Naturally, he approached our leadership about placing a gold ribbon on our aircraft. Without hesitation our program along with our aircraft service provider, Air Methods Corporation, approved and fully supported the request and their awareness efforts.

“I am flattered that the company I work for not only cares about their personnel, but what goes on with their families as well,” said Jamie. “This will bring a greater amount of awareness to childhood cancer and I am honored they have embraced our mission.”

**To learn more about WV Kids Cancer Crusaders, visit: [wvkidsc.org](http://wvkidsc.org)**

*The Perkins family together while Tre was receiving treatment for cancer.*





# **New Technology Brings Neurologist to the Bedside in Rural Hospitals**

In July, CAMC hosted medical staff from several rural West Virginia hospitals to participate in a real-life demonstration of new telemedicine technology that can be used to treat stroke patients.

CAMC is the only designated primary stroke center in the region.

“That means that we are one of the centers in the state that are designated for stroke care,” said stroke program manager, Kelly Cottrell, RN, BSN, NE-BC.

“Stroke care is very time sensitive, so you have to be efficient and prompt. We do our best to evaluate patients in a very timely manner. A lot of patients are evaluated for tPA. That’s the clot-busting or clot-dissolving medication that is given in acute ischemic stroke,” Cottrell said.

The only FDA-approved treatment for ischemic stroke, tPA must be given within 4.5 hours of the onset of symptoms to be effective. Before tPA can be administered, patients must meet certain criteria. At a primary stroke center like CAMC, a neurologist and trained stroke team determine eligibility for tPA, but rural hospital facilities may not have access to stroke specialists, which can delay care.

But that’s about to change.

Thanks to technological advances, telemedicine has become a valuable tool in the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients in rural hospitals.

“Telestroke technology will be very beneficial to small rural facilities like ours because we do not have certain specialists such as a neurologist

to consult for a stroke patient,” said Barbara LaGue, RN, emergency room (ER) manager at Jackson General Hospital.

“It is very nice for our ER physicians to consult with a neurologist, and telemedicine can actually pull them into the patient’s bedside with a video camera and let them see what the ER physician is seeing to consult about the patient’s care,” LaGue said.

As telemedicine technology is deployed in hospitals throughout the state, health care professionals can come to CAMC for hands-on demonstrations and participate in real-time scenarios with actor patients.

“I think [these simulations] are very helpful,” LaGue said. “We don’t have anything like this at the facility where I come from. It’s more realistic, and it lets you prepare for when that real patient walks in.”

**Learn more about CAMC’s Stroke Center at [camc.org/Stroke](http://camc.org/Stroke).** ■

**Ischemic stroke:** Caused by a blood clot that blocks or narrows blood vessels to the brain

**Hemorrhagic stroke:** Caused by a blood vessel breaking and bleeding into the brain

**In both scenarios, oxygen cannot travel to the brain and causes brain cells to die.**

“ **Telestroke technology will be very beneficial to small rural facilities like ours because we do not have certain specialists such as a neurologist to consult for a stroke patient.** ”

– **Barbara LaGue, RN,**  
Emergency Room Manager at Jackson General Hospital

# Summersville Regional Medical Center, Jackson General and Wetzel County hospitals enter into management agreement with WVU Hospitals

## Braxton County Memorial Hospital intends to join WVU Health System

**T**hree hospitals – Summersville Regional Medical Center, Jackson General Hospital in Ripley, and Wetzel County Hospital in New Martinsville – entered into management agreements with WVU Hospitals over the summer, and one hospital – Braxton County Memorial Hospital in Gassaway – signed a letter of intent to join the West Virginia University Health System.

Summersville Regional Medical Center and WVU Hospitals entered into a management agreement in June. At the time, Summersville Mayor Robert Shafter and Stephen Boone, Summersville Regional Medical Center Board chairman, said they appreciated the opportunity to work with WVU Hospitals.

“This hospital is critically important to the city, county, and region, and entering into this agreement with WVU Hospitals means that our patients will not have to travel outside of our area for care,” Shafer said. “For that, we are very grateful.”

Braxton County Memorial Hospital (BCMh) signed a letter of intent to join the WVU Health System in August. “BCMh is a valuable entity in our community as well as the surrounding areas. We will be able to offer several added services by being a member of the West Virginia University Health System, which will greatly benefit the health needs of our community,” Barbara Adams, chair of the BCMh Board of Directors, said. “This is an exciting time for BCMh as we hope to continue meeting the healthcare needs of our patients and community for many years to come.”

The management agreement between Jackson General Hospital and WVU Hospitals went into effect on Sept. 1. Rob Fisher, chairman of the Jackson General Hospital Board of Directors, said the management agreement creates a win-win situation for the hospital and its patients.

“The management agreement helps us to guarantee that the hospital will continue to serve the area as it has for 54 years, and it provides our patients with easy access to a level of care that is unrivaled in the state,” he said. “We appreciate the opportunity to work with WVU Hospitals and to better care for the citizens of Jackson County and the neighboring region.”

Wetzel County Hospital and WVU Hospitals entered into a management agreement effective Oct. 21. Wetzel has been a clinical affiliate of the WVU Health System since 2016. Under the terms of the agreement, David Hess, M.D., president and CEO of WVU Medicine Reynolds Memorial Hospital in Glen Dale, now serves as CEO of Wetzel County Hospital. Brian Felici, who previously held the position, is a northern region consultant to WVU Hospitals.

“We are again grateful to the Wetzel County Commissioners and the Hospital Trustees for their support and forward thinking in taking this step, which only serves to benefit our patients,” George Friedline, chair of the Wetzel County Hospital Trustees, said. “Since we entered into the clinical affiliation, we have seen our medical services and capabilities expand, and we expect further expansion in those areas as a result of this management agreement.” ■



*Summersville Regional Medical Center*



*Jackson General Hospital*



*Wetzel County Hospital*

# Cabell Huntington Hospital Focuses on Sepsis Prevention, Creates Response Team

Sepsis, a potentially life-threatening complication, occurs when the body's response to infection causes inflammation to tissues and organs. This inflammation can trigger a cascade of changes that can damage multiple organ systems, causing them to fail. Risk of death increases up to eight percent for each hour treatment is delayed. Early treatment of sepsis, usually with antibiotics and large amounts of intravenous fluids, improves chances for survival.

Cabell Huntington Hospital uses InSight, a machine learning algorithm for sepsis prediction to forecast sepsis. CHH is the first hospital in West Virginia to use this system.

"Because the early clinical diagnosis of sepsis can be challenging and time is so critical, we turned to Insight to assist nurses and physicians with an earlier electronic alerting system. We are already seeing a positive impact for our patients," said Hoyt J. Burdick, MD, senior vice president and chief medical officer at CHH. "By coupling this system with a team dedicated to quick response specifically for sepsis, we continue to see an improvement in positive outcomes."

Developed by Dascena, Inc., InSight analyzes routinely collected data in the electronic health record to forecast sepsis and provide nurses and physicians with much earlier notice that sepsis may be occurring. Since implementing this system over a year ago, CHH has seen a significant

improvement in early sepsis identification and treatment. Since the launch of a dedicated Sepsis Response Team in June, CHH has been able to achieve even greater response time.

"We continually monitor the national best standards for sepsis and use benchmark indicators to push us to find new and better ways of providing the highest quality of care," said Jeremy Tidd, RN, nurse manager of the Intensive Care Unit at CHH. "The new Sepsis Response Team provides faster response and treatment to sepsis alerts."

Sepsis occurs in three stages starting with sepsis and progressing through severe sepsis to septic shock. By implementing a team process using an alert system and a fast response process, sepsis can be treated during its early stage, before it becomes more dangerous.

"The team is made up of six nursing staff members who rotate an on-call schedule for sepsis alerts. When a sepsis alert page is sent, the nurse quickly responds and assesses the patient to provide immediate information to the attending physician," Tidd explained. "The physician begins treatment based on the individual patient's needs. We will continue to monitor outcomes and improve processes to treat sepsis earlier."

**For more information about sepsis visit us on the web at [www.cabellhuntington.org](http://www.cabellhuntington.org).** ■

**“ We continually monitor the national best standards for sepsis and use benchmark indicators to push us to find new and better ways of providing the highest quality of care. The new Sepsis Response Team provides faster response and treatment to sepsis alerts. ”**

**– Jeremy Tidd, RN**

Nurse Manager of the Intensive Care Unit at Cabell Huntington Hospital

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