



InFlight

Fall 2020

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



Celebrating
Team Member
Milestones



HealthNet
Aeromedical Services

On the Cover

The Morgantown, West Virginia based EC-145 flies above the beautiful fall foliage of Coopers Rock State Forest.

Photo by Matt Skelton



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Base 2 Aircraft Upgraded

The Millwood, West Virginia based flight team is now operating in an EC-135. The twin-engine, Instrument Flight Rules capable aircraft replaced the base's former EC-130 helicopter.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services is excited for additional aircraft upgrades across the system planned in 2021!



Customer Profile



Photo courtesy Mike Sanders

The Berkeley County Emergency Ambulance Authority (BCEAA) was created in 1988 to supplement the volunteer EMS operations of Berkeley County, West Virginia's five fire departments. Over the past 30 years, BCEAA's mission has evolved and the agency now serves as the sole 911 response provider for the county.



BCEAA has 70 providers on staff who respond to over 10,000 calls annually. All units are ALS staffed with one paramedic and one EMT. Six stations are located throughout the county with a total fleet of seven ambulances.

The agency supports their community by serving as an education partner with Blue Ridge Community and Technical College and providing training to first responders at the Proctor & Gamble facility. BCEAA hopes to offer the same EMS support to the new Clorox manufacturing facility opening soon in the county. Crew members are also very involved with Berkeley County schools and regularly offer ambulance tours and safety presentations to students.

BCEAA's partnership with HealthNet Aeromedical Services is vital to the trauma patients that need transport to a higher level of care. Since the opening of the Martinsburg air base in 2011, flight team members and BCEAA crews have trained together and worked together with a common mission to provide quality care to patients. *

Air transportation provided by:



HealthNet Aeromedical Services is a not-for-profit shared service of:



HealthNet Aeromedical Services is fully accredited by:





A Message From Our President/CEO

At the heart of any high reliability organization you'll find people. People who are fully vested and totally committed to a cause bigger than one individual. A team, working together to make a difference.

Across our system you'll find exceptional people who work tirelessly each day to provide care, to lead, and to collectively serve others during some of life's most difficult moments. They do this work humbly and often with little recognition. Certainly, there are easier paths each could choose, but they choose to walk the challenging path in service to others. In this issue of InFlight you'll meet some of these extraordinary individuals.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services maintains a structured team member recognition program to celebrate milestones in the delivery of critical care transport. At an annual celebration dinner awards are presented and each team member receiving an award is invited to attend along with a guest. Given the public health

challenges we presently face, it was impossible for recipients to gather this year. Instead, service awards were presented at the base level and in the pages that follow you'll see these recipients as we highlight their respective accomplishments.

For thirty-five years HealthNet Aeromedical Services has safely delivered lifesaving care across central Appalachia. Our safety record, caring and decades of service would not be possible without the people. On behalf of our non-profit member hospitals and board of directors, thank you for having confidence in each of them and in our program. *

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



Coming next issue...

**35 years
in review!**





Celebrating Career Milestones



100 Flights or 5 Years of Service



1,000 Flights or 10 Years of Service



2,500 Flights or 15 Years of Service



FLIGHT TEAM



Brian Shekey
Flight Paramedic, Base 8
103 Flights



CJ Wiles
Flight Paramedic, Base 5
104 Flights



Kayla Pennington
Flight Paramedic, Base 7
108 Flights



Julia Zeto
Flight Nurse, Base 7
121 Flights



Amanda Zima
Flight Nurse, Base 10
124 Flights



AVIATORS



Chad Gouge, Pilot
Pilot, Base 7
5 Years of Service



Quinci Donahue
Flight Nurse, Base 9
132 Flights



Jo-Beth Stamm
Flight Nurse, Base 9
142 Flights



Dave Cutright
Flight Paramedic, Base 2
153 Flights



Steven Dent
Flight Paramedic, Base 8
167 Flights



Joda Meisel
Flight Nurse, Base 9
179 Flights



Perry Ward, Pilot
Pilot, Base 3
5 Years of Service



FLIGHT TEAM



Rusty Holbert
Flight Nurse, Base 6
1,049 Flights



Chris Schrader
Flight Nurse, Base 1
1,052 Flights



Matt Rose
Flight Nurse, Base 6
1,080 Flights



FLIGHT TEAM



Dave Adkins
Flight Nurse, Base 5
15 Years of Service



Tammy Zornes
Flight Nurse, Base 3
15 Years of Service



MECHANICS



James Evans, Mechanic
Mechanic, Base 2
10 Years of Service

Congratulations!

Mountain Health Network Hospitals Recognized by Healthgrades

By Lisa Chamberlin Stump
Chief Strategy Officer
Mountain Health Network

Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) and St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC), members of Mountain Health Network, have once again been recognized by Healthgrades for quality and excellence.

CHH has been recognized as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Joint Replacement for the 10th year in a row. CHH is the only hospital in West Virginia and the Tri-State to receive this designation.

Both CHH and SMMC were recognized as two of Healthgrades 2021 America's 100 Best Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery. This marks the third year for CHH and the second year for SMMC to receive this distinction.

These achievements place CHH and SMMC among the top 100 hospitals out of nearly 4,500 evaluated. In addition, CHH is celebrating 14 consecutive years as a 5-star (out of five stars) designated facility for knee replacement surgery.

CHH's awards of continued excellence in orthopedics include:

- ONLY hospital in WV to be America's 100 Best for Joint Replacement 10 Years in a Row (2012-2021)
- ONLY hospital in WV to receive Healthgrades Joint Replacement Excellence Award™ for 14 Years in a Row (2008-2021)
- ONLY hospital in WV among the Top 5% in the Nation for Joint Replacement for 11 Years in a Row (2011-2021)

- ONLY hospital in WV Among the Top 10% in the Nation for Joint Replacement for 14 Years in a Row (2008-2021)
- Orthopedic Surgery Excellence Award™ for four years in a row (2018-2021)
- ONLY hospital in WV among the Top 10% in the nation for overall orthopedic services for four years in a row (2018-2021)
- Five-Star Recipient for total hip replacement for four years in a row (2008-2021)
- Among the Top 5% in the nation for Overall Orthopedic Services
- Five-Star Recipient for Spinal Fusion Surgery

Healthgrades also recognized CHH for cardiology, critical care, gastroenterology, labor and delivery, neuroscience, and pulmonology.

SMMC was also recognized for orthopedics, cardiology and labor and delivery.

These achievements are part of findings released in the Healthgrades 2021 Report to the Nation. The new report demonstrates how clinical performance continues to differ dramatically between hospitals nationally, regionally and at the local level, and the impact that this variation may have on health outcomes. ■





CAMC Becomes Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery

By Dale Witte
Marketing & Public Affairs
Charleston Area Medical Center

CAMC recently achieved accreditation as a Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery by Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). This accreditation distinguishes CAMC from many other surgical facilities by providing the highest quality of care to patients as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation.

This achievement means that CAMC has met nationally and internationally recognized standards. Not all hospitals and surgeons seek accreditation; not all that undergo the rigorous requirements and inspection process are granted accreditation.

“Using a robot during a procedure has benefits for the patient and surgeon,” said Samuel Deem, DO, director of robotic surgery. “We continue to expand our program and train our residents and medical students on robotics.”

“We’re proud to recognize Charleston Area Medical Center for their commitment to advancing and providing quality care for all patients,” said Gary M. Pratt, CEO of SRC. “This accreditation signals that this hospital is among the best in this specialty and is dedicated to delivering the highest level of care possible.”

CAMC launched the first multispecialty robotic surgery program in West Virginia in 2007 and now has three robots assisting surgeons.

Since 2007, surgical specialists practicing at CAMC have used robots for more than 6,300 procedures.

CAMC offers multiple procedures with each specialty including several oncologic procedures such as colon resection, esophageal cancer, lung cancers and mediastinal masses, prostate, bladder, kidney, hysterectomy, oophorectomy, and lymph node removal for gynecological cancers.

In 2012, CAMC added a robot model that included a teaching console. This dual console allows the attending surgeon to maintain control of the procedure while directing the resident.

CAMC celebrated another robotic milestone when surgeons began using the da Vinci robot at CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital in October 2019.

CAMC now has two robots at CAMC Memorial Hospital and one at CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital. ■



Accreditation as a Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery means that CAMC has met nationally and internationally recognized standards.

Kidney Transplant Program Provides Answers, Fills Need in State

By Angela Jones-Knopf
Corporate Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs
WVU Medicine

Diagnosed with renal failure nearly five years ago, Jeremy Cushwa, 31, began a dialysis program near his home in Martinsburg that required three visits a week for at least three hours per visit. Despite the physical challenges a dialysis routine presents, Cushwa continued to put in full-time hours at his job in a retail warehouse.

By the time Cushwa was a candidate for a kidney transplant at WVU Medicine's J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in late March, the COVID-19 virus was just starting to emerge as a global crisis. He didn't flinch when given the option to postpone his surgery.

"At the time, there were a lot of unknowns about the COVID-19 virus and quite a bit of fear," Lynsey Biondi, M.D., physician director of transplantation and surgical director of the kidney transplant program, said. "We presented Jeremy with all the information we had and gave him the option of doing his surgery at another time but he said, 'Absolutely I want to do this; I'm ready.'"

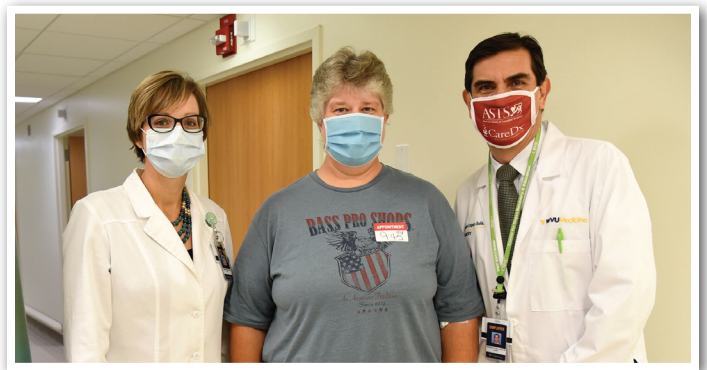
The kidney transplant program at WVU Medicine, which has been in existence a little more than a year and has been responsible for six transplants. The kidney program and heart transplant program are part of the WVU Medicine Transplant Alliance, a support system for patients that includes some of the country's top surgeons, physicians, and transplant professionals, who work closely with a broader team, including pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, and financial coordinators.

"I'm feeling great right now," Cushwa said. "They did a great job with me. I'm not tired all the time, and I don't have to go to dialysis anymore. I can do anything I want to do."

"People are not having to leave this state and travel so far to get a transplant," Dr. Biondi said. "And, I think we also worked to understand the needs of the people in West Virginia. We're really finding that people had less education, less knowledge about transplants, so even people who could be referred were not going because it's overwhelming."

The comprehensive approach and in-state locale were two of the factors that led Tammy Butcher to WVU Medicine. Butcher, 50, from Craigsville in Nicholas County, has a genetic kidney disease likely inherited from her mother who had a transplant in the 1980s. She has not been disappointed with her care, even when faced with a two-hour drive from her home.

"I didn't want to go anywhere else but here," she said. "They have everything here, and the whole team has been on top of everything the



Kidney transplant patient Tammy Butcher, center, poses with kidney transplant surgeons Lynsey Biondi, M.D., and Roberto Lopez-Solis, M.D.

entire time. The transplant team has been awesome, and they've done more than I even thought."

Butcher cited nephrologist Bethany Pellegrino, M.D., and Biondi as two of the program's heroes.

"Dr. Biondi is amazing," she said. "She genuinely cares about me and what I'm going through."

Along with missing the unpleasantness and inconvenience of dialysis, Butcher may have also added years to her life expectancy. The mean lifespan of a kidney donated from a deceased donor is 12 years, but Butcher may be able to receive another kidney if necessary. Some research shows that a transplant, with little or no time spent on dialysis, can lead to better long-term health.

The program has received more than 500 referrals since it started accepting them in November 2019. Many of the patients are too ill or have too many complications to be candidates for a transplant, but the referrals led to about 300 evaluations and 40 more candidates added to a nationally regulated list.

"We've built a team of people here who have done transplants in multiple places across the country," Biondi said. "I'm very excited about the way things have turned out. When we came here, there was no program, no patients – it was a leap of faith. But Dr. Lopez-Solis and I knew the need was here, and that's why we came here." ■

SOCIAL MEDIA ✨ **Follow and Like Us!**



Congratulations to the hard-working medical command center communicators who have achieved milestones in patient transports!



Awarded for completion of 100 transports

Michelle Brumfield - Charleston MedBase
Maribeth Hausey - Charleston MedBase
Michaela Hitchens - WVU Medical Command
James Nance - Charleston MedBase



Awarded for completion of 2,500 transports

John Beachler - WVU Medical Command
Stephanie Lowdermilk - WVU Medical Command
Brooke Pauley - Charleston MedBase
Patti Whaples - Charleston MedBase



Awarded for completion of 1,000 transports

Hannah Curry - Charleston MedBase	Nikki Little - Charleston MedBase
Roger Dial - Huntington Medical Command	Gary Patterson - WVU Medical Command
Harli Ferrell - Charleston MedBase	Derrick Ray - Huntington Medical Command
Harold Harding - Charleston MedBase	Athena Rodenhaver - WVU Medical Command
Brent Hicks - WVU Medical Command	Shay Teter - WVU Medical Command
Caitlin Jones - Charleston MedBase	Nicole Williams - Charleston MedBase