



InFlight

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



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Morgantown EC145e dedication celebration

Pushing the Boundaries in Critical Care Transport

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

Throughout the last 35 years, the teams serving patients with HealthNet Aeromedical Services have taken pride in delivering world-class transport medicine. Being a non-profit program cooperatively owned by three academic medical centers, our collective focus steadfastly revolves around safety and high-level clinical delivery.

This tradition continues with the addition of point-of-care ultrasound to our arsenal of life saving tools. As you'll read about in detail elsewhere in this edition of *InFlight*, these devices allow greater diagnostics to occur in the field and speed the receiving physician's decision-making for definitive care. Time saved equals lives saved and with point-of-care ultrasound our teams are delivering just that.

One of the often-stated concerns about healthcare is that "more is done so more can be charged." Within emergency transport this is the furthest thing from the truth. Beyond the transport itself, there are no other charges. Regardless of how much care a patient receives in the air, the reimbursement is fixed. So, why add tools like ultrasound? Simply put, it's the right thing to do. HealthNet Aeromedical Services clinicians are extensions of our owner health systems. They bring those hospital-based critical care services into the field to give patients the very best chance at life. And they excel at doing just that.

The level of care our teams deliver today was unimaginable 35 years ago. Three decades from now teams will be providing care unknown to us today. And patients will benefit. When boundaries are pushed, people are given more and more chances. And every day, we collectively push those clinical boundaries.

On behalf of our owner academic medical centers and board of directors, thank you for having confidence in our teams, knowing that they'll always push those boundaries for your patient.

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



HealthNet Aeromedical Services is fully accredited by:





Team Member Spotlight

Allie Smith, NRP, FP-C
Flight Paramedic, Base 1

Like many others in the healthcare field, Allie Smith has an inherent desire to help others.

“My grandmother had ALS. Growing up I watched my family take care of her and I knew I wanted to find a way to help people.”

She started her emergency medicine journey as an EMT with the White Sulphur Springs Rescue Squad in Southern West Virginia. While pursuing a sustainable tourism major at West Virginia University, she decided to take her career in a different direction and began a paramedic course. In 2017, she joined HealthNet Aeromedical Services as a Flight Paramedic.

“When it comes to anything in my life, I want to climb the ladder to the top. For me, working at HealthNet is the highest I can go with my career as a paramedic,” said Smith. “I feel challenged every day and I’m able to make a big impact in the lives of those I care for.”

Even at the top, she’ll never forget where she started.

“When I was an EMT, I always got excited when someone took the time to tell me I was doing a good job. That’s why I always try to share my knowledge with others and let them know when they’re doing the right things for our patients.”

Outside of work, Allie enjoys the thrills of the great outdoors. She enjoys kayaking and biking or hiking her favorite trails.



Customer Profile East Ohio Regional Hospital

East Ohio Regional Hospital is located in Ohio’s oldest permanent settlement, Martins Ferry, Ohio. It was founded in 1906 as Martins Ferry Hospital by local physician Dr. R.H. Wilson and began its tradition of healing with only 30 beds and 5 physicians. The hospital grew over the years with a built-in culture of serving the local community.



In 2017, after facing financial struggles, the hospital was purchased by a California based company. That company made the decision in August 2019 to close the community hospital. Local communities were left with a healthcare gap. In early 2020, the hospital was purchased by an Ohio physician, Dr. John Johnson, MD, MBA. Over a span of 35 years, Dr. Johnson has started, acquired, and grown a variety of health care organizations that he continues to own and operate. East Ohio Regional Hospital re-opened its doors in February 2021.

This long-standing dedication of doing the right thing for the community is why HealthNet Aeromedical Services is honored to partner with East Ohio Regional Hospital to provide critical care transport to the patients they serve.

The 70-bed acute care facility is fully accredited by The Joint Commission. The hospital has a medical staff with more than 120 providers of different specialties and over 400 employees. The facility offers a variety of inpatient and outpatient services, including cardiopulmonary care and rehabilitation, emergency medicine, laboratory, neurovascular, orthopedic, radiology and nuclear medicine, sleep medicine, retail pharmacy, 50-bed skilled nursing facility, surgical services, physical, occupational and speech therapy, along with a variety of outpatient treatments and services.

For more information about East Ohio Regional Hospital and its services, please visit www.eohospital.com.

Improving Patient Care with Point-of-Care Ultrasound

Change in healthcare is constant. To keep in pace with the evolving trends in patient care, HealthNet Aeromedical Services is embracing point-of-care ultrasound to better diagnose patients before they arrive at a medical facility.

Every aircraft in the program's fleet is now equipped with a portable Butterfly IQ+ ultrasound device.

"We have the finest clinicians, and they deserve every tool and opportunity to empower their clinical judgement," said Matt Handley, vice president for clinical operations. "It's the right thing to do for our patients."

This non-invasive device can easily be used in the confined spaces of an ambulance or helicopter to look for fluid or blood built up around vital organs and to ensure airways and IVs have been properly placed.

"Adding the ultrasound to our aircraft isn't about putting a feather in our cap so we can say we are cutting-edge. We expect that this device will become a very useful tool for our flight team members. That's why we've engaged physicians from our owner academic medical centers to provide hands-on training to our clinicians to ensure they are well-versed in the use of these devices and interpretation of ultrasound images," said Handley.

Flight team members have been able to use the device in the field and then show the ultrasound images to receiving physician once they arrive at a medical facility. This provides the physicians with information they can use to further diagnose and treat a patient. It also creates an opportunity for flight team member to receive feedback on clinical decisions in the prehospital setting.



Flight Nurse Eric Hager receives guidance from Dr. Joseph Minardi, Director of the WVU Medicine Center for Point-of-Care Ultrasound, on properly performing an ultrasound exam.



Flight Nurses Cassie Bell and Chelsea Epling utilize an ultrasound device to practice properly inserting a needle into a vein.



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– Matt Handley, Vice President for Clinical Operations

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OneTeam Excellence Award Winners

Each quarter, the OneTeam Excellence Award is presented to a team member who embraces our program's mission, vision, and values.



Fourth Quarter 2020
Rob McClure
Pilot, Base 2



First Quarter 2021
Jeff McCourt, FP-C
Flight Paramedic, Base 5

Congratulations!