Catholic Health Opens Second Advanced Wound Healing Center in Orchard Park

In early 2010, Catholic Health introduced its first Advanced Wound Healing Center at Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus. On track to more than double projected new patient volume, Catholic Health has opened a second Advanced Wound Healing Center at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park.

“Catholic Health has the most comprehensive and integrated range of wound care and hyperbaric medicine services in the Buffalo area treating patients from throughout the region,” said Lee Ruotsi, MD, medical director of the program. “By expanding to Orchard Park, we will be able to serve more patients from throughout the Southtowns and Southern Tier with greater comfort and convenience.”

Joining Dr. Ruotsi is William J. Lagaly, DO, who serves as medical director of the Orchard Park location. Board certified in Family Medicine, as well as Undersie and Hyperbaric Medicine, Dr. Lagaly comes to Catholic Health from Little Rock, Arkansas, where he served as medical director of a number of hyperbaric medicine and wound care centers. “We are very fortunate to have someone with Dr. Lagaly’s training and experience join our program,” Dr. Ruotsi continued. “His expertise in wound care and hyperbaric medicine will allow us to expand services at the MACC site.”

Catholic Health’s Advanced Wound Healing Centers focus on the evaluation and treatment of chronic, non-healing wounds through various treatment methods, including the latest single-patient hyperbaric oxygen therapy chambers. While most wounds heal quickly on their own, problematic wounds take much longer to heal, often causing severe pain, medical complications, extended hospital stays and deteriorating health.

“The volume and complexity of cases we have seen underscores the growing need for wound care services in Western New York,” Dr. Ruotsi added. “With a location in Orchard Park, we will be able to expand our geographic reach, giving more patients access to needed wound care and hyperbaric medicine services.”

Mercy Comprehensive Care Center Opens Its Doors

Mercy Hospital of Buffalo is pleased to announce the opening of the Mercy Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) at 397 Louisiana Street in Buffalo. The newly expanded primary care “supercenter,” located in a 21,000 square-foot addition to the former Mercy Health Center, offers OB/GYN, pediatric, and adult medical services, along with podiatry care and expanded ultrasound, x-ray and lab services.

Mercy Health Center staff and clinicians moved into the new addition in December. Further renovations are underway in the vacated space, which will be completed in February. The $3.8 million project was funded in part by a $1.5 million grant from New York State to improve access to primary care services.

“We are pleased to expand primary care services to residents in this economically-challenged community,” said Michael Reilly, vice president of Primary Care Services. “For many individuals and families with limited transportation, the MCCC is their only source for primary care.”

There is a longstanding Mercy tradition of serving families in the surrounding community, which is known as Buffalo’s “Old First Ward.” The MCCC is located on the former site of St. Brigid Parish, which was home to the Sisters of Mercy when they arrived in Buffalo in 1858. “It is especially fitting that we continue the Sisters’ legacy of caring for those in need that began in this community over 150 years ago,” Reilly added.
When St. Joseph Hospital merged with Sisters of Charity Hospital on April 1, 2008, it was a major turning point for Catholic Health, but it wasn't the end of the journey to save the hospital from closure.

The newly formed Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus had been given a "limited life" operating certificate and in three years' time would have to prove once again it deserved to remain open. This past December, Catholic Health received official notice from the New York State Department of Health that St. Joseph Campus had been granted "permanent life status." That's the news we've been waiting for," announced Catholic Health president & CEO Joe McDonald, who spearheaded the campaign to save the hospital from closure. "This means staffing the hospital, and our community can rest comfortably knowing that has to meet stringent criteria. "On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work, especially our physicians and staff who continue to provide the highest quality care," McDonald added. "We believe now, as we did in 2006, that St. Joseph Campus has a bright future."

Catholic Health's Go Green efforts are a significant part of the system's key initiatives to reduce its environmental impact in 2011. Over the last three years, Catholic Health has taken big steps to become more environmentally responsible.

In 2010, we were recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Power Partner. We are also a member of Practice Green Health, a nationwide program which helps guide health systems in decreasing their carbon footprint.

Our associates have also done a great job in our recycling efforts and this year we are committed to increasing our target of recycled waste to 27%. We already purchase 10% of our electrical energy from wind power and are removing Styrofoam from our facilities, but there is much more to do.

National studies show that 20% to 30% of hospital waste comes from operating rooms. So this year we will launch our OR recycling program. This plan includes managing waste and gases more efficiently, reprocessing surgical supplies, and installing LED lighting.

Catholic Health has also committed to recycling materials from construction projects, a process known as "deconstruction." We will also continue our successful events to collect electronic waste and unused pharmaceuticals for proper disposal.

We continue to hear from associates that our Green efforts are important to them and a source of great pride. With everyone's support, Catholic Health will continue to lead the way in Western New York as an environmentally responsible healthcare provider.

Shaping Our Future

Our 2020 Strategic Plan, which we began in 2008, provides a road map to shape our future and plan for continued growth and development throughout our system. At its core, is the creation of key Service Lines (Vascular, Women's Services, Orthopedics and Cancer Services) to define our areas of strength and integrate programs and services across our system. Our goal, to become the healthcare community of choice for patients, physicians and associates is largely dependent on the success of these service lines and our ability to deliver safe, high quality care across our continuum.

Our journey continues in our Vascular Service Line, which includes Cardio, Stroke and Vascular services, is an indication that our planning efforts are working. With national recognitions and growing patient volumes, Catholic Health is the recognized leader in Cardio and Vascular care in Western New York. We are also growing our Stroke Services, with the most NYS Designated Stroke Centers of any area provider. In 2011, we will further develop our Women's Services Line, by identifying plan. Our 2020 Strategic Plan, which we began in 2008, provides a road map to shape our future and plan for continued growth and development throughout our system. At its core, is the creation of key Service Lines (Vascular, Women's Services, Orthopedics and Cancer Services) to define our areas of strength and integrate programs and services across our system. Our goal, to become the healthcare community of choice for patients, physicians and associates is largely dependent on the success of these service lines and our ability to deliver safe, high quality care across our continuum.

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With healthcare reform unfolding and the continued economic challenges we face are in our everyday life and community, our planning efforts will become even more critical. As we continue the journey to become a high performing health organization, we must remain diligent in our efforts to provide the highest quality care at the lowest possible cost.

With your continued support, 2011 promises to be a rewarding year for Catholic Health. Thank you for sharing this journey and for all you do to care for those in need throughout our community.
Taking a stroll down Main Street is certainly a different experience at the OLV Senior Neighborhood in Lackawanna. Instead of traffic jams, noise and endless storefronts, visitors are greeted with a serene atmosphere that includes a chapel, gift shop, history museum, laboratory service center, and comfortably furnished community meeting and gathering spaces.

The Senior Neighborhood’s “Main Street” concourse and newly designed front entrance cap off a nearly decade-long project to transform the former Our Lady of Victory Hospital into a vibrant senior living community. On December 13, family and friends gathered for a special blessing to celebrate the completion of the OLV Senior Neighborhood and the renaissance of this historic campus.

The Patrick P. Lee Foundation, in conjunction with a grant from the Empire State Development Corporation and private donors, provided the funding to complete the new entrance, which features an arts & crafts-style design. With its unique approach to senior living, the OLV Senior Neighborhood includes the Victory Ridge Apartments, the Mercy Nursing Facility, the LIFE (Living Independently For Elders) program, and the Father Baker Gablelight Park & Walking Trail.

“We are grateful to Congressman Jack Quinn, whose early support in 2002 allowed us to begin this journey,” said Aimee Gomlak, vice president of Strategic Redevelopment. “We would also like to thank the many generous private donors and foundations who recognized the need to provide innovative care options and living, choices for area seniors.”

Promises Fulfilled at the OLV Senior Neighborhood

Breast Cancer Navigator Program Helps Guide Patients

For most women, a diagnosis of breast cancer brings with it a host of medical questions and concerns, along with a variety of emotional issues. To help women throughout the area better manage their breast cancer care, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo in conjunction with Catholic Health Women’s Services has introduced a unique Breast Cancer Patient Navigator Program.

This complimentary support service provides a specially trained nurse practitioner to guide women through the many phases of breast cancer care, from diagnosis and treatment through post-recovery. Candice Gerrity, RN, MSN, FNP, a clinical professional with more than 15 years of experience, has been named breast cancer navigator, offering compassionate consultation services and linkages to follow-up care and additional support.

Candice holds a master’s degree in Nursing from D’Youville College and is a Certified Breast Patient Navigator in both breast imaging and breast cancer (CBPN-IC) by the National Consortium of Breast Centers in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Hospitral in Baltimore, Maryland.

Catholic Health’s Breast Cancer Patient Navigator Program is available to all women who have been recently diagnosed, are already living with the disease, or have had a recurrence of the disease. The navigator serves as a guide, educator and advocate, assisting with physician appointments, insurance paperwork, genetic testing and other support services and resources available to breast cancer patients and their families. Candice is also available to provide personal support to women having breast surgery at Mercy Hospital.

For more information on this free service, contact Candice Gerrity at 716-698-9464.

Kenmore Mercy Participates in Nurse Teaching Program

Kenmore Mercy Hospital, in partnership with the University at Buffalo School of Nursing, is piloting a Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) program on the hospital’s 2 East and 3 East Patient Care Units. Through this collaborative effort, nursing students gain hands-on experience from nurses on the unit, providing an optimal learning environment for the next generation of nursing professionals.

The Dedicated Education Unit concept requires the engagement of all the staff on the unit to provide the students with the best setting for clinical learning,” said Cynthia Curran, RN, MSN, a clinical assistant professor at SUNY Buffalo. “Both the 2 and 3 East Units at Kenmore Mercy were up to the challenge.”

In addition, the units provide a variety of clinical experiences for the students, including working with orthopedic, neuro, med/surg, and cardiac/telemonitor patients. Curran acts as a coach for the hospital staff, supporting their teaching; facilitating the transfer of classroom learning for the students; and evaluating the success of the program for further development.

As a bedside educator, the DEU nurse provides evidence-based practice and protocol-driven care. The students get to work in clinical settings, learning from nurses with a wealth of experience. “The DEU program works because it is one of mutual respect, open communication and collaboration,” added Curran.

Catholic Health Leads the Region in Robotic Surgery

A decade ago, the thought of performing surgery with a robot seemed like something out a sci-fi movie. But today, it’s revolutionizing many surgical procedures, resulting in less pain, less scarring, shorter hospital stays, and fewer complications for area patients.

Catholic Health, the area leader in robotic-assisted surgery, now has new da Vinci® Robotic Surgery Systems at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo and Sisters of Charity Hospital. The systems are the latest generation da Vinci® technology, providing doctors with the most advanced robotic surgery equipment available today.

Catholic Health is the only area health system with two da Vinci® surgical robots, offering patients greater choice, comfort and convenience. Mercy Hospital, an early pioneer of the da Vinci® technology in 2005 for prostate cancer surgery, is now the only area hospital using the system for minimally invasive heart surgery through the Catholic Health Heart Center. Sisters Hospital brought the state-of-the-art system to its Main Street campus in early 2010 for gynecologic and urogynecologic procedures.

Long scars and rows of stitches are becoming a thing of the past, as surgeons rely on medical robots and high-tech computer technology to “see” inside the body and perform intricate surgical procedures through pencil-sized openings. Catholic Health has more than a dozen specially trained physicians using the da Vinci® technology to perform a variety of cardiac, urogynecologic and general surgery procedures.

Just ten years ago, surgical robots were little more than a curiosity. Today, Catholic Health continues to advance the scope of minimally invasive surgery in WNY, offering more robotic procedures than any other area hospital or health system. If you or a loved one needs surgery, ask your doctor if the da Vinci® system might be right for you.

Creighton Model of Natural Family Planning Sessions

Sisters of Charity Hospital

February 12, March 19 and April 16

Mercy Hospital

February 16, March 12 and April 13

Mount St. Mary's Hospital

February 16, March 16 and April 27

Call Mary Zablocki at 862-1944 for more details.
Partners In Rehab and AthletiCare Make Strides in Amputee Rehabilitation

Whether it’s the result of an illness, accident or injury, losing a limb is never an easy experience. When an amputation happens, patients are confronted with a host of emotions, questions and concerns. Many don’t know where to turn or what the future holds. They fear they may never walk again and their quality of life will be dramatically affected.

The good news is, with modern prosthetics and proper rehabilitation, many amputees can lead active, productive lives. Catholic Health’s AthletiCare and Partners In Rehab have developed an Amputee Rehabilitation Program across its continuum of care to help patients on the road to recovery.

“From the moment a patient learns an amputation is necessary, we begin the education process with the entire family, discussing everyone’s needs and what lies ahead,” says Joe Baumgarden, manager of AthletiCare at Kenmore Mercy Hospital. “From there, specially trained therapists at each level of care (Acute, Medical Rehab, Subacute, Home Care, and Outpatient) work with amputee patients to provide high quality, seamless care and help them achieve their rehabilitation goals.”

Buffalo firefighter Mark Reed, who lost his leg in the line of duty, received outpatient rehabilitation at AthletiCare. “While Mark’s story is more high profile than most of our patients, they all experience similar feelings of loss and uncertainty,” Baumgarden continued. “Communication at each level of care, as well as with the physician and prosthetist, is the key to reaching a successful outcome.”

New 5 Main Unit Opens at Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital of Buffalo recently opened a new 47-bed patient care unit in space formerly occupied by the hospital’s skilled nursing facility. The new 5 Main Patient Care Unit is the largest in the hospital and features 45 private patient rooms, 28 telemetry channels, and a state-of-the-art nurse call system using cell phone technology.

Mercy’s new 5 Main Unit features a spacious nurses’ station.

Patients from the hospital’s 7 McAuley East Unit were transferred to the new 5 Main Unit in October, where they were greeted with fresh flowers and a special lunch to mark the occasion. “The entire process was flawless thanks to the hard work of many individuals and departments and the months of planning that went into the move,” said Kathleen Guarino, vice president of Patient Care Services. “I especially want to thank the Unit Practice Council and our nurse manager, Maureen Allan, who worked tirelessly on this undertaking.”

The new nurse call system has been receiving rave reviews from patients, their families and staff. “When patients activate their call light, an alert goes directly to their nurse’s cell phone,” explained Guarino. “This makes response time much faster while cutting down on noise throughout the unit.”

As for the vacated space on 7 McAuley East, Mercy Hospital is planning a new cardiovascular step-down unit with more private patient rooms. “As we renovate our remaining patient care units, we will continue to take advantage of the latest technology available to improve communication and enhance patient care,” Guarino added.

Efforts Underway to Enhance Mercy’s Imaging Services

With a focus on enhancing the patient experience, Mercy Hospital has embarked on a multi-faceted plan to reconfigure its Imaging Services to improve patient care, workflow and convenience.

The plan involves relocating some services to newly renovated space formally occupied by the hospital’s Emergency Department; enclosing an open courtyard to house a new MRI/CT suite; and the construction of two interventional radiology/operating rooms (OR), including one “hybrid” OR with biplane imaging capabilities.

Construction work began on the courtyard in November. When completed, Mercy will be one of the first hospitals in the nation to install the latest generation Siemens® MRI unit, along with a new CT scanner.

Work crews place the steel beams to enclose the courtyard that will become the new MRI/CT suite at Mercy Hospital.

Physical therapist Joe Baumgarden looks on as Mark Reed practices descending stairs with his prosthetic leg.

Partners In Rehab and AthletiCare make strides in amputee rehabilitation.

With work underway on the interventional radiology and hybrid OR rooms, which combine all the equipment and systems associated with a standard operating room, plus advanced imaging equipment for interventional cardiology, neurology and/or vascular procedures.

“The hybrid OR is in growing demand at hospitals across the country as surgeons move to more minimally invasive procedures that require advanced imaging capabilities,” said Julie LaManna, senior director of Cardiovascular Services.

Other plans call for the relocation of the patient waiting room to the former ER space. The entire project, expected to be completed in the Spring, will result in the consolidation of Mercy Hospital’s Imaging Services on the main floor, improving patient access and enhancing care.

Faces of Sisters Hospital

Sisters of Charity Hospital is Buffalo’s first hospital, with a tradition of superior care dating back to 1849. The hospital has a long history in the community and in the hearts of its associates.

To preserve the commitment of its associates, Sisters Hospital is teaming up with Buffalo artist Brian Nesline, founder of Faces of Buffalo, to make a mosaic rendering of the hospital. The one-of-a-kind installation will feature unique self-portraits drawn by the associates themselves.

In Nesline’s signature style, all the self-portraits will be combined to make a beautiful mosaic of Sisters Hospital. This truly distinct work of art will be prominently displayed in the hospital’s new Emergency Department. Other Buffalo-based works by Nesline will also be featured in the new Emergency Department.

Miracles and Wonders Through Technology

Catholic Health Among First in Nation to Use Heart Surgery Device

Surgeons at the Catholic Health Heart Center are among the first in the nation to use a new device to reduce the risk of stroke in patients undergoing heart surgery.

The “AtriClip” was recently approved by the Food & Drug Administration for use in surgery treating atrial fibrillation (AFib), a condition in which the upper chambers of the heart beat rapidly and ineffectively. These abnormal heart rhythms occur more frequently in older patients and are especially common during heart surgery. Research shows that patients with arrhythmias, like AFib, have a significantly higher risk of stroke than patients without the condition.

Led by John Bell-Thomson, MD, chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Catholic Health Heart Center at Mercy Hospital, the surgical team successfully implanted the device in a patient on June 28. Surgeons at the Cleveland Clinic performed a similar procedure the same day.

According to Bell-Thomson, the rectangular-shaped device is implanted during heart surgery to reduce the risk of blood clots, which can lead to stroke. “The AtriClip device is another breakthrough in cardiac surgery,” said Dr. Bell-Thomson. “It’s a safe and effective therapy and, as always, we are committed to providing our patients with the latest advancements in technology to enhance safety and improve care.”

Cardiothoracic surgeons Serrie Lico, MD, recently named a 2011 Top Doc by Castle Connely, is also using the device. “Patients with AFib are more likely to form blood clots in the heart, which can detach and cause a stroke,” explained Dr. Lico. “The AtriClip excludes the part of the heart where clots form and prevents them from traveling to the brain.”

This latest local “first” builds on other breakthroughs in cardiovascular care at the Catholic Health Heart Center. In January 2010, Dr. Bell-Thomson and his surgical team were the first in the Western New York to perform a robotic-assisted mitral valve repair using the da Vinci Surgical System. The Heart Center remains the only area facility using robotic technology for advanced minimally invasive heart surgery.

For more information on the Catholic Health Heart Center, call HealthConnection at 447-6205.
Catholic Health Nurses Participate in Nationwide Effort to Improve Quality and Patient Safety

Catholic Health has been selected to participate in “Aligning Forces for Quality/Transforming Care at the Bedside” (AF4Q/TCAB), a nationwide program sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to lead improvements in the quality and safety of patient care. Select nursing units at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, Sisters of Charity Hospital, St. Joseph Campus, and Kenmore Mercy are participating in the regional effort. This initiative of WNY, a non-profit group dedicated to improving the health of the people of Western New York, was selected by RWJF to lead the regional implementation. In all, 17 regions across the country are participating in the project designed to lift the overall quality of health care in targeted communities and provide models for national reform. The 18-month, nurse-led quality transformation program will engage frontline staff to work together to identify, pilot, test and adopt new practices. The program empowers nurses to make changes at the bedside to improve the patient’s experience of care and reduce adverse events.

Participating nurses will share their successes and lessons learned with other hospitals across the country. Catholic Health’s participation shows that we are committed to being a leader in improving patient care to produce better outcomes. By participating in this unique opportunity, our nurses will be working with others across Western New York to lead change that will improve healthcare delivery throughout the region and across the country.

A Step in the Right Direction

Imagine not being able to leave your house… not because of a phobia or crippling medical condition, but because you physically couldn’t due to excessive weight gain. That’s what Carolyn Carter faced in April of 2009.

Within minutes of placing a 911 call for emergency assistance, first responders knew they had a serious situation on their hands. Carolyn couldn’t move by herself and lived in a second story apartment with a narrow stairway. Faced with limited choices, a team of 20 firefighters and city engineers cut through an outside wall and used a high lift to bring her down safely. She was then transported to Sisters Hospital.

Upon admission, Carolyn weighed 596 pounds with a BMI of 102. After spending two months in the hospital, she was transferred to St. Catherine Labourè Health Care Center to continue her rehabilitation. There, she learned how to manage her weight through diet and exercise. A positive attitude was key to her success. “I do a little bit at a time and I’m working on getting back into a routine,” says Carolyn. Within 18 months, she lost over 125 pounds and can now climb stairs and walk on her own. She was discharged from St. Catherine’s in September and continues to make progress.

“I’m keeping my exercise up because I don’t want to get stuck like that again,” says Carolyn as she works on getting back out into the world. “I owe it all to Sisters Hospital and St. Joseph Campus. My doctors and physical therapist Amy Kostek and Katie Kennedy.”

Good Health Rests on a Good Night’s Sleep

We all know when we get a good night’s sleep, we feel better. However, recent studies are beginning to show a link between sleep and overall health and wellbeing. In fact, when people get less than six or seven hours of sleep a night, their health risks increase.

A University at Buffalo study showed that people who slumber less than six hours a night during the workweek were three times more likely to have elevated blood sugar levels than those who slumber six to eight hours, suggesting lack of sleep can trigger diabetes.

A September 2006 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine looked at the link between sleep and health noting, “without sleep, you become more susceptible to health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity and depression.”

In addition, heart attacks and strokes are more common in the early morning hours. This may explain the way sleep interacts with blood vessels. Lack of sleep has been associated with worsening blood pressure and cholesterol, risk factors for heart disease and stroke.

Lastly, when your body is sleep deficient, it goes into a state of stress, which can cause high blood pressure and the production of stress hormones, increasing your risk for heart attacks and strokes. Up to 70 million Americans suffer from sleep disorders, with an additional 20 to 30 million affected by intermittent sleep-related problems. Common problems include sleep apnea, snoring, narcolepsy, periodic limb movement disorder, sleepwalking, excessive daytime sleepiness and insomnia. Many of these conditions are preventable and treatable, but go undiagnosed.

Catholic Health offers medically monitored sleep studies at its newest SleepCare center at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, along with Sisters of Charity Hospital, St. Joseph Campus and Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. For more information, call HealthConnection at 447-6205.

Joe McDonald Named Chairman-Elect of HANYS Board of Trustees

Joe McDonald, president & CEO of Catholic Health, has been named chairman-elect of the Board of Trustees of the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) for 2011. McDonald’s appointment, along with the other new officers and executive committee, was announced by HANYS president Daniel Sisto.

HANYS is a non-profit organization that represents and advocates on behalf of all New York hospitals and health systems at all levels of the federal and state government. It is the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, representing more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.

Stroke Rehabilitation – Comprehensive Care, Clinical Expertise, Goal-Oriented Recovery

Early treatment and rehabilitation are an essential part of the recovery process following a stroke. Catholic Health offers a complete continuum of rehabilitation services, from inpatient medical rehabilitation to subacute care, home care, and outpatient rehabilitation to help stroke patients return to their highest levels of function and independence.

With its breadth of services, the Partners In Rehab team can focus on the specific needs of stroke patients, from their initial stay in the hospital, through all levels of rehabilitation. “Because we provide such a wide variety of services, stroke patients continue to have access to the same medical expertise throughout their recovery as they move through our continuum,” said James Czyrny, MD, medical director of Partners In Rehab and AthleticCare. “Our goal is to ensure patients receive the right care in the right setting.”

In addition to Dr. Czyrny, the Partners In Rehab team is led by board-certified physiatrists – physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Physiatrists bring a holistic approach to the rehabilitation process, looking at continuity of care and family involvement to determine the most appropriate setting to meet each patient’s rehabilitation needs.

Together with specially trained rehab nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, dieticians, social workers and spiritual care associates, Partners In Rehab’s multidisciplinary approach ensures all aspects of care are being met. Ongoing education and professional partnerships with the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, ensure patient has access to the best care and industry leading support services.

The ability to transition from one level of care to the next within Catholic Health, offers our patients greater continuity of care and access to dedicated rehabilitation experts throughout their recovery, Dr. Czyrny added. “This team approach provides an environment of encouragement for both the patient and family, giving us the best chance to achieve our rehabilitation goals.”

Mary Cazaia, PT/L, is part of the Partners In Rehab Medical Rehabilitation team at Kenmore Mercy.
Catholic Health Intranet – Coming Soon to a PC Near You

In today’s computer-driven world, the Internet is the place to go for up-to-date news and information. To make getting news and information specific to Catholic Health even easier for our associates, physicians and staff, Catholic Health is gearing up to launch an Intranet site in January.

A joint project of Catholic Health Marketing and Information Technology, the Intranet site is designed to improve internal communication by creating a central access point for news, information, and events related to Catholic Health and our ministries. This multifunction communications resource will eventually replace the Y-drive and serve as the homepage when associates launch Internet Explorer with their work PCs.

The Intranet project will launch in three phases. Phase one includes the initial launch at my.chsbuffalo.org in January. Phase two will launch over the next few months and allow facilities/services to upload site or department-specific information. Phase three will allow associates to access the Intranet from their home computers at any time. The new Intranet site will include:

- A message of the day featuring the latest Catholic Health news (snow closings, service updates, etc.)
- An electronic billboard with important daily reminders (HIPAA privacy, infection control, etc.)
- A list of current announcements and IT downtimes
- A “favorites” catalog of useful applications
- A system-wide calendar of events

Once complete, the Intranet site will improve functionality by allowing associates to access, share, store and retrieve important information in one centralized location.

CPOE Goes System-Wide

Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) is now up and running at all four Catholic Health acute care sites as Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus went live with the new technology on January 17, Mercy Hospital, Sisters (Main Street) and Kenmore Mercy Hospital all successfully implemented CPOE in 2010. CPOE is a critical part of the clinical transformation of Catholic Health,” said Mike Galang, DO, Catholic Health CIO. “It’s where clinical practice and technology converge. Currently, more than 120 physicians and mid-level providers have been trained in the use of CPOE. Every day the number of patients benefiting from this new technology increases, as does the percentage of orders placed electronically.

CPOE is also a critical measure in determining “meaningful use” of our electronic health record (EHR). By successfully implementing and using EHR technologies like CPOE, Catholic Health will become eligible to receive more than $20 million in federal reimbursements for our technology investments.

Studies have shown that CPOE enhances communication and clinical coordination, reduces medication errors and adverse drug events, and “hard wires” standardized clinical practices across our system. In addition, CPOE decreases duplication of tests and procedures, and improves turnaround times for laboratory, pharmacy and radiology requests.

Lastly, CPOE is an essential part of Catholic Health’s Equinox initiative to transform process, culture, and technology in order to improve quality, enhance patient safety and create the private practice environment of choice for our physicians and healthcare practitioners.
Around the System...

Eddie Bratto has been named director of Financial Services for Cardiac Services and Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. Eddie joins Catholic Health from UPS where he served as East Region financial manager. He earned an MBA from the University at Buffalo and completed a leadership program at the University of New Hampshire and an internship at Yale University, School of Medicine.

Dr. Alexander Geller, medical director of SleepCare at St. Joseph’s Campus and Kenmore Mercy Hospital, would like to thank everyone throughout Catholic Health for their kind expressions of sympathy following the death of his father. He would especially like to thank the staff at St. Joseph Campus for the exceptional care and compassion they provided his father and family.

Pramita Kamat has been named business advisor for Sisters Hospital, Women’s Services, Primary Care and Imaging Behavioral Units. Most recently, Pramita served as an intern in the Catholic Health Finance Department. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Engineering in her native country of India and a master’s degree from the University at Buffalo School of Management.

Jennifer Kreutzer has been named director of Nursing at St. Francis. Jennifer previously served as acceunt executive with CardioNet in Florida. She is a WNY native and a graduate of Catholic Health’s senior budget analyst and neuroscience analyst, Dennis brings a wealth of experience to his new position supporting the financial and business needs of Mercy Hospital. Dennis holds an MBA from St. Bonaventure University.

Rebecca MacPeek has been named a credentialed specialist in the System Verification Office. A native Western New Yorker, Rebecca recently returned to the area from Florida where she worked as an employee plan specialist for Meritain Health. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Legal Studies from University at Buffalo.

Anna McDonagh has been named non-invasive data manager in the Quality & Patient Safety Department. She previously served as patient access supervisor for Mercy Hospital and Mercy Diagnostic Center in West Seneca.

Louis Pawlowksi, a nurse practitioner in Adult Medicine and Pain Management at Lovejoy/St. Vincent Health Center, was presented with the “Distinguished Preceptor Award” from the University at Buffalo. Louis began his career at a nurses aide at Sisters Hospital and has remained with the hospital throughout his own professional development. Congratulations to Louis for this special recognition and for his work in supporting the development of future nursing professionals.

Len Popielinski has been named Plant Operations supervisor at Sisters of Charity Hospital. He joined Sisters Hospital in 1983 and most recently served as chief engineer. In his new role, he will continue to be responsible for the Boiler House and HVAC at the Main Street campus and off-sites, within additional responsibilities in the day to day management of the department.

Kathy Regan, RN, CCRRN-CMC, has been named director of Nursing at St. Francis of Williamsville. Kathy previously served as director of Nursing at Father Baker Manor and returns to our ministry after a brief time away. A WNY native and graduate of Trocaire and Roberts Wesleyan Colleges, Kathy first joined Catholic Health in 2008 after serving in clinical and administrative positions in Florida.

Nicole Szeluga has been named business advisor for Cardiac Services and Mercy Hospital. Previously serving as Catholic Health’s senior budget analyst and neuroscience analyst, Nicole will join the financial service team in supporting Kenmore Mercy Hospital, the Neuroscience and Vascular Service lines and the Rehab business unit. She holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Canisius College.

Trinity Medical Offers New Practice Option

The healthcare landscape is shifting quickly and dramatically. From healthcare reform to technology, the practice of medicine is being shaped by outside influences like never before. Concerned with the impact of these changes, and what they might mean to the number of physicians locally, Catholic Health has become a strategic partner with Trinity Medical, Western New York, PC. Trinity is a private medical practice that offers physicians an "employed" environment backed by the resources of Catholic Health. "Our structure offers physicians the opportunity to practice medicine without the hassle of being a highly regulated small business," said Michael Edbauer, DO, president of Trinity. In addition to physicians who are wrestling with things like Electronic Medical Records and meaningful use, Trinity is also an attractive option for those physicians who are facing the challenge of designing a practice succession plan.

According to the latest government figures, from 2005 to 2008, the number of physician-owned private medical practices declined by a dollar from approximately 66 percent to less than 50 percent, with the trend likely to continue. Trinity Medical, Western New York, P.C., is located at 3050 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca. A second location is currently under consideration. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about opportunities with Trinity Medical, please contact Dr. Edbauer at (716) 862-2164.
Good health depends on finding reliable information and the right healthcare services. Catholic Health’s HealthConnection makes getting that information as easy as picking up the phone.

Whether you’re looking for a family doctor or medical specialist, seeking health information, wellness classes, or community support services, Catholic Health’s HealthConnection can help.

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All submissions are subject to editing and are published at the Editor’s discretion.

Open Enrollment Recap

Benefit changes made during open enrollment became effective January 1, 2011. As part of our Go Green efforts, there will be no benefit statements mailed home to confirm your 2011 elections. Please refer to your benefit election summary from open enrollment and compare it to the deductions on your first paycheck in January to ensure they are correct. If there are any discrepancies, please contact your facility HR Department immediately. Also keep in mind the following:

- **Added Spouse or Dependents:** If you added a spouse or dependents to any benefit option, you are required to provide the following original verification documents to your facility HR Department no later than March 1, 2011:
  - Spouse - marriage certificate
  - dependent - birth certificate or record of adoption/guardianship

- **Life Insurance:** If you increased or enrolled in Optional Life Insurance for you or your spouse, you may be required to complete a Personal Health Application. Our life insurance carrier, The Hartford, will mail the application to you. Please return the required information as soon as possible because coverage does not become effective until your application is approved.

- **Health and Prescription Coverage:** New identification cards will only be issued to first time enrollees or if changes were made to your 2011 coverage. Health insurance ID cards are issued by BlueCross BlueShield and prescription ID cards by Independent Health.

- **Dental Coverage:** Azeros is now Nova and new identification cards will be issued to all associates electing voluntary dental coverage.

- **Vision Coverage:** Since Vision Service Plan (VSP) is a paperless plan provider, no identification cards are issued. Simply tell your vision provider that you are a member of VSP.

- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA):** Since this benefit must be updated each year, only associates who selected a dollar amount during open enrollment are eligible. This year, over-the-counter medications will only be reimbursed with a doctor’s prescription.

Remember… access the HR Gateway for the latest HR news:

1. From the Catholic Health website (www.chsbuffalo.org) – click on the Associates tab, select Logins, then select HR Gateway
2. From Catholic Health Internet Explorer – select Favorites, select CHS Enterprise Links, then select CH HR Gateway
3. From the internet – log on to https://chs.mnisportal.com

If you have any questions about your 2011 benefit coverage(s), contact your facility HR Department.

Healthcare Career School Fair

Plan on attending a Healthcare Career School Fair Thursday, February 17, 12 noon – 4 p.m. - St. Joseph Campus Community Room
Thursday, March 30, 12 noon – 4 p.m. - Mercy Hospital Marillac Room
Thursday, April 14, 12 noon – 4 p.m. - Kenmore Mercy Hospital Community Room

Learn about clinical & non-clinical certificate, 2-year and 4-year degree programs to advance your career in Catholic Health

Participants include:
- Buffalo Employment & Training Center: Get money to go back to school
- Buffalo Public Schools: Adult Education
- Canisius College
- Daemen College
- D’Youville College
- Erie 1 BOCES
- Erie Community College
- Greater Buffalo Works: Career Pathway
- Program Niagara County Community College
- State University of New York at Buffalo
- Greater Works: Career Pathway
- SUNY Buffalo State College
- State University of New York at Buffalo

For more information contact David Zapfel in Staff Development at dzapfel@chsbuffalo.org or by calling 716-254-7

HealthConnection (716) 447-6205

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- Find a doctor or medical specialist who is right for you.
- Get free health screenings to check for health risks.
- Enroll in free health education programs to live a healthier life.

Speak with a live Catholic Health representative at (716) 447-6205 or visit chsbuffalo.org