Beebe Plans Expansion to Medical Center in Lewes to Meet Needs of Growing Population

Delaware has the fifth-highest net migration rate in the nation for persons between the ages of 55 to 74, the state reports. And, Sussex County is the state’s fastest-growing county in terms of older persons.

To meet the needs of this growing and aging population, as well as the growth in the population of young families, Beebe Healthcare is proposing to expand the size and services of its Medical Center in Lewes. A two-phase project, estimated to cost nearly $200 million, will include the construction of a five-story addition to allow the Medical Center to provide private rooms to all patients. Other project specifics include demolishing older sections of the Medical Center to allow for new and expanded operating rooms, heart procedure areas, and 200 more parking spaces.

Once the project is approved and completed, the Medical Center will have more than 200 private rooms. The construction project is anticipated to begin by 2019.

Medical Center Recognized for Care Provided to Heart Failure Patients

Beebe Healthcare has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association’s Advanced Certification in Heart Failure.

To earn the Advanced Certification in Heart Failure, Beebe underwent a rigorous on-site review in which a Joint Commission expert evaluated compliance with disease-specific care standards and with heart failure–specific requirements. The certification, awarded for a two-year period, recognizes Beebe’s Heart Failure program for its collaborative relationship with its cardiologists and for using the latest scientific research developed to meet each patient’s needs. Beebe’s Heart Failure program, which is part of Beebe’s Cardiac and Vascular Services, provides patients with specialized care and education, both in and out of the hospital.

Advanced Certification in Heart Failure signifies that Beebe delivers the best possible care available, not only while the patient is hospitalized, but also following discharge. Transition of care occurs as case managers and the Heart Failure Team coordinate and communicate with Beebe Home Care Services and Beebe’s Population Health Department. Post discharge care also includes a follow up with the cardiologist in seven days and phone calls by a Beebe nurse practitioner to those patients who decline home care services. Once patients are home, they receive telemedicine and physical therapy as needed. Patients at end of life can receive compassionate care and hospice.
New Publications for You and Your Patients

The 2016 Beebe Medical Staff Directory and the 2016 Beebe Patient Care Services Guide will be available by March 1. To receive copies, please email Jeff Peirce at jpeirce@beebehealthcare.org. Electronic versions of both can be found on the website at www.beebehealthcare.org.

The Tunnell Cancer Center Annual Report is posted at the publication page on the Beebe website at www.beebehealthcare.org/beebe-publications. Copies can be obtained by calling (302) 645-3770.

The Beacon, Beebe’s longtime, award-winning consumer publication, has taken a new direction. Its focus is health and wellness and making sure that readers obtain information that can help them lead healthier and happier lives. You can find the winter issue on the publication page of the Beebe website at www.beebehealthcare.org/beebe-publications.

Breast Density Notification

Delaware’s Breast Density law went into effect this year, requiring that each patient’s mammography letter includes a statement about her (his) breast density. Please review the brochure from the American College of Radiology (ACR) for more information. This brochure is available in English and Spanish and will be included with each patient’s mammogram results letter.


The assignment of breast density is somewhat arbitrary and is divided into four categories: almost entirely fatty (a), scattered areas of fibroglandular density (b), heterogeneously dense (c), and extremely dense (d). Most women fall into the b or c category; c and d categories are especially dense (d). Most women fall into the b or c category; c and d categories are generally considered “dense breasts.” In addition to the mammogram results in lay terms, each patient’s letter will include the breast density descriptor and letter category (a, b, c, d) along with the following paragraph, which contains minor modifications from the actual legislation and incorporates recommendations from the Delaware Radiologic Society:

Breast density is based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. If your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your provider. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you, based on your mammogram result and your risk factors.

It is not necessary to perform further studies in the setting of dense breast tissue. Mammography is still the best screening test, and 3D digital mammography (tomosynthesis) is better than 2D digital mammography, especially with dense breast tissue. Most insurance companies will cover bilateral breast ultrasound.

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FDA Recommendations Concerning Gadolinium Contrast Enhanced MRI

The FDA has been investigating the risk of brain deposits following repeated use of gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) for MRI. Recent publications in the medical literature have reported that deposits of GBCAs remain in the brains of some patients who undergo four or more contrast-enhanced MRI scans, long after the last administration. To date, there are no known adverse health effects; however, research on this topic is ongoing.

As a result, the current FDA recommendation is to consider limiting GBCA use to clinical circumstances in which the additional information provided by contrast is necessary. Also, providers are urged to reassess the necessity of repetitive GBCA MRIs in established treatment protocols.

Gadolinium is useful for evaluation of infection, demyelinating disease, neoplasm (although it is not necessary for identifying bone metastases), and in the post-operative spine to distinguish scar tissue from recurrent disc. It is not necessary for trauma or stroke. Note that if an MRI is initially performed without contrast, and there is a finding that requires further evaluation with contrast, a follow-up MRI can be performed with contrast only.

Please consider these recommendations when ordering an MRI with contrast. If you have further questions, contact a radiologist at Beebe Healthcare at (302) 645-3636. We will provide updates as they become available.

Delaware Diabetes Coalition Honors Beebe Clinical Nurse Specialist and Certified Diabetes Educator

Tina Trout, APRN, ACNS-BC, CDE, Certified Diabetes Educator at Beebe Healthcare, was honored with the Delaware Diabetes Coalition first leadership award, which will bear her name—The Tina Trout Leadership Award—and be given annually at the Diabetes Expo in Dover. Trout coordinates for Beebe’s Diabetes Self-Management Education program, which has been recognized by the American Diabetes Association since 2000.

Resources Available for Patients

The Coalition’s 10th edition of the Delaware Diabetes Coalition Resource Guide for Persons with Diabetes is available at no cost in all Delaware hospitals, Delaware Division of Public Health, and online at www.dediabetescoalition.org or by calling (302) 388-9728 for a copy. The Resource Guide includes information about diagnosing diabetes, Diabetes Standards of Care, self-management, financial assistance, and statewide resources.
COMING SOON

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy at Our New Location

Beebe will introduce hyperbaric oxygen therapy to its comprehensive Wound Care program, which will take on a new name—Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine. The program will open in March 2016 at a new location in the Medical Arts Building at the Beebe Health Campus, Rehoboth Beach (Route 24).

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy has been proven to increase oxygen concentration in the body, which helps fight bacteria, improve healing rates, and avoid loss of limbs in patients with diabetes, vascular disorders, or who have sustained serious trauma. Beebe will install the BARA-MED “Select” hyperbaric chamber, which provides the most advanced and effective treatment available. The chamber is spacious, temperature-controlled, and runs quietly, reducing patient anxiety. It is equipped with an entertainment system, enabling patients to watch videos during treatment.

Robert A. Portz, MD, a Board Certified physician and member of Sussex Emergency Associates, is the Medical Director of the new program.

Physicians: Please fax a signed physician order, including specific wound or ostomy details and recent medical history to (302) 645-3428, and direct patients to call us at (302) 645-3121 to set up an appointment.