Telemedicine expands access to PeaceHealth specialists

Coastal residents in need of mental health evaluation and consultation now have greater access to PeaceHealth specialists thanks to the development of telepsychiatry services.

PeaceHealth Behavioral Health specialists at Sacred Heart Medical Center, University District have performed more than 44 remote crisis evaluations since July 2010 for patients in the Peace Harbor Hospital Emergency Department in Florence. Mental health specialists based in Eugene-Springfield are now providing 75 percent of the after-hours mental health on-call services at Peace Harbor Hospital, said Shelly Smith, Nurse Manager of the Peace Harbor Emergency Department.

"You can imagine the burden that relieves for ED staff and mental health staff in Florence," said Dan Reece, Manager of the PeaceHealth Oregon Region Network of Care.

In addition, PeaceHealth Behavioral Health psychiatrist Russell Sampley, MD, has provided 32 outpatient telepsychiatry consultations for primary care patients of PHMG-Florence over the past nine months. Feedback on patient evaluation forms has been overwhelmingly positive and appreciative of the service, Reece said.

"The service keeps them in the community and allows them to avoid a long and costly trip to the Eugene-Springfield area for services," Reece said. "Patients either respond positively or neutrally to the technology, and research has shown no appreciable difference in the efficacy of care."

Psychiatry is a particularly good specialty to provide by telemedicine. The psychiatric interaction translates very well to the interactive video medium and typically does not require any peripheral medical devices for the consultation compared with other specialties.

The Behavioral Health Crisis Team has also successfully used telemedicine for mental health crisis evaluation of patients in the Sacred Heart at RiverBend Emergency Department by connecting patients there with crisis workers in the University District Emergency Department. Over the past two years, they have provided evaluations for 112 patients.

In addition, specialists at the Oregon Bariatric Center at Sacred Heart at
RiverBend have recently started using live, interactive videoconferencing technology to communicate with patients at its satellite bariatrics clinic in Roseburg. Case coordinators currently provide remote financial planning, insurance coordination and program navigation resources. In the next few weeks, services will expand to include remote nutrition and behavioral support visits with a Registered Dietitian and Psychologist. These preoperative assessment and counseling sessions are part of the pre-surgical care provided by the bariatric interdisciplinary team, and will be available through telehealth in December.

Oregon Cardiology welcomes three new cardiologists

Three new physicians have joined Oregon Cardiology at Sacred Heart Medical Center's Oregon Heart & Vascular Institute (OHVI).

Sudeshna Banerjee, MD, is an Interventional Cardiologist with a special interest in percutaneous treatment of structural heart disease. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology and board-eligible in Interventional Cardiology. She joined the Oregon Cardiology team in October after completing fellowships in cardiology and interventional cardiology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. She attended medical school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and completed her residency at Case Western Reserve University.

Nasreen Ilias-Khan, MD, is a Cardiologist with a special interest in women's heart disease, cardiac rehabilitation and cardio-oncology. She will serve as Medical Director of Cardiovascular Wellness at OHVI. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Echocardiography and board-eligible in Cardiology. She joined the team in September after completing a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Texas Health Center in Houston. A Northwest native, she attended medical school at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland and completed her residency at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Eric Pacini, MD, is a Cardiologist with a special interest in cardiac imaging. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and board-eligible in Cardiology. He joined the team in September after completing his fellowship in cardiology at the University of Washington in Seattle. He attended medical school at Temple University in Philadelphia and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Texas at Southwestern in Dallas.
"We are fortunate to have these three new, energetic physicians join our team," said Richard Padgett, MD, Executive Medical Director of OHVI. "They bring an array of specialized cardiac care skills to Sacred Heart, ensuring patients receive quality care, coordination and personal attention."

The new physicians join the practice following the departure of Michael Menen, MD, and Phoebe Ashley, MD, who recently left Oregon Cardiology and relocated out of the region. Click here for a complete directory of OHVI cardiologists and surgeons, or contact Oregon Cardiology at 541-484-4332.

Case Study: Hyperbaric oxygen for chronic radiation tissue injury

A patient suffering from chronic radiation tissue injury following treatment for stage 4 tonsil cancer regains her ability to swallow and speak after hyperbaric oxygen treatment.

Subject: Kay Wilson (pictured), now 66, owner of a financial planning business in Eugene, was diagnosed with stage 4 tonsil cancer Dec. 28, 2009. She underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation in Palm Desert, Calif. Two separate PET scans were clear at conclusion of treatment.

Diagnosis: Patient was diagnosed with chronic radiation tissue injury of the larynx and esophagus. She complained of hoarseness, severe pain, and difficulty with the swallowing function and other parts of the gustatory apparatus. She was on morphine for a year and a feeding tube for eight months, and malnutrition left her too weak to walk. Her dentist in Palm Desert suggested she look into Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT).

Treatment: Patient began HBOT treatment at Sacred Heart Medical Center's Hyperbaric Center under Medical Director Robert C. Barnes, MD, FACP, CWS, in mid-December 2010, more than six months after conclusion of radiation. She completed an initial course of 30 HBOT sessions, breathing 100 percent oxygen at pressures two to three times the normal atmospheric pressure for 90 minutes at a time. She underwent another 16 sessions in August 2011.

Outcome: By the sixth session, patient was able to swallow water. After her first course of therapy, she no longer had to use her feeding tube. Her pain decreased and she weaned from the morphine. "She reported a substantial improvement very, very early in her course and for the most part
those improvements were durable," Dr. Barnes said, noting that her results were uncommonly good. Most patients require more therapy before experiencing symptom resolution. Patient now speaks normally and recently returned from a cruise on the Mediterranean Sea, during which she walked as many as eight miles a day. Her sense of taste and ability to smile and eat acidic foods remain limited, but her quality of life is restored. "I have no pain," Ms. Wilson said. "It's amazing how much better I can swallow. I have more energy because, of course, I can eat now. It's changed my life."

Download a factsheet about Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. The Hyperbaric Center can be reached at (541) 222-4500.

Medical volunteers bring hope, healing to El Salvador

For more than a decade, physicians and other dedicated volunteers have provided hands-on medicine to thousands of residents of rural communities in El Salvador through PeaceHealth's PazSalud program.

PeaceHealth and the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace (CSJP) jointly established PazSalud in January 2001 to bring human and material resources to people in a country with inadequate health care. Since then, more than 340 volunteers have provided health care to over 18,000 Salvadorans.

Conditions are difficult in El Salvador. Only 24 percent of rural residents have access to safe drinking water, and 35 percent of rural residents lack adequate sanitation services. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 is roughly 350 percent higher than in the United States. There are an estimated 300 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, compared with 12 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the United States.

PazSalud conducts two missions each year – a general medical and eye screening trip each winter, and a cataract surgery trip each spring. The team typically sees about 1,600 patients during the five days of clinic and performs about 45 cataract surgeries during the five surgical days. About 26 volunteers from PeaceHealth and CSJP participate in each winter trip. The spring surgical trip has six to eight volunteers.
The next mission is scheduled for February in San Jose Villanueva, a rural community of about 15,000 residents located among the hills between the capital city, San Salvador, and the Pacific Ocean. The team will offer four clinics: general medicine, pediatrics, gynecology and optometry.

"Having been to El Salvador myself as a participant in six missions, I can tell you it is a wonderful experience," PeaceHealth pediatrician Dale Heisinger, MD, said. "It's a chance to doctor from the heart, without the medical technology and supports to which we are accustomed."

More information about PazSalud is available on its website, or email Kathy Garcia, manager of the El Salvador Mission.

**In the News**

Read about physicians featured in the news.

- PeaceHealth Medical Group endocrinologist Aaron Pardini, MD, discussed diabetes management on Doc Talk KUGN 590 AM. (9/6/11)
- PHMG pediatrician Jimmy Unger, MD, wrote an article for The Register-Guard about preventing childhood obesity. (9/8/11)
- PHMG pediatrician Sarah Libecap shared tips for parents about exercise, TV time, healthy eating and sleep patterns on Doc Talk KUGN 590 AM. (9/11/11)
- Bariatric surgeon Jessica Folek, MD, appeared on KVAL-TV with a patient to discuss bariatric surgery. (9/19/11)
- Cardiologist Nasreen Ilias-Khan, MD, discussed women's heart health and preventive care on Doc Talk KUGN 590 AM. (9/27/11)
- PHMG Chief Medical Officer Tom Ewing, MD, was interviewed on KMTR-TV about PHMG's move from the Downtown Eugene clinic to University District. (10/4/11)
- Cristin Babcock, MD, Medical Director for Obstetrics at Sacred Heart, wrote to The Register-Guard about elective inductions prior to 39 weeks. (10/3/11)
- PHMG internal medicine physician Michael Carnevale, MD, discussed the importance of flu shots on Doc Talk KUGN 590 AM. (10/11/11)
- PHMG psychiatrist John Lipkin, MD, appeared on KKND Radio in Cottage Grove to discuss the Oregon Psychiatric Association's 2011 Access Award, given to PeaceHealth/SHMC in September. (10/11/11)
- Eileen Reynolds, Executive Director of the Oncology Institute at SHMC, wrote an article for The Register-Guard (pg 18-19) about the hospital's newly formed Breast Leadership Team. (10/14/11)
- Neurologist Ray Englander, MD, Medical Director of Sacred Heart's Stroke Center, appeared on KVAL-TV and Doc Talk KUGN 590 AM to discuss stroke awareness and treatment in anticipation of World Stroke Day. (10/17/11)
- PHMG Pediatrician Serena Black, MD, discussed safe trick-or-treating...
New People

The following physicians are new to the area or these practices.

Sudeshna Banerjee, MD, Interventional Cardiology.
Medical School: University of Missouri-Kansas City
Internship/Residency: Internal Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
Fellowship: Cardiology, Washington University School of Medicine
Board-Certified: Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease
Board-Eligible: Interventional Cardiology
Oregon Cardiology, Sacred Heart Medical Center
3311 RiverBend Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 484-4332

Rebecca M. Carroll, MD, Anesthesiology
Medical School: Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Chicago
Internship/Residency: University of Texas-Houston
Board-Eligible: Anesthesiology
Northwest Anesthesia Physicians, PC
3333 RiverBend Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 222-3154

John G. Dodd, DO, Ophthalmology
Medical School: Midwestern University
Internship: University Hospitals
Residency: Michigan State University
Board-Eligible: Ophthalmology
The Eye Center
1550 Oak St., Suite 2
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 683-2020

Frederick S. Drach, MD, Infectious Disease
Medical School: Tufts University School of Medicine
Internship/Residency: Internal Medicine, Tucson Hospital Medical Education Program
Fellowship: Infectious Disease, Oregon Health & Science University
Board-Certified: Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine
PeaceHealth Medical Group - Oregon, Infectious Disease
3377 RiverBend Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 222-6345
Nasreen A. Ilias-Khan, MD, Cardiology
Medical School: Oregon Health & Science University
Internship/Residency: Internal Medicine, Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Fellowship: Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Board-Certified: Internal Medicine and Echocardiography
Board-Eligible: Cardiology
Oregon Cardiology, Sacred Heart Medical Center
3311 RiverBend Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 484-4332

J. Patrick McMahon, MD, Emergency Medicine
Medical School: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Internship: Naval Medical Center
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Mayo Clinic - School of Graduate Medical Education
Board-Certified: Emergency Medicine
Cottage Grove Community Hospital
1515 Village Drive
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
(541) 942-0511

Eric L. Pacini, MD, Cardiology
Medical School: Temple University
Internship/Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Texas Health Sciences Center Houston
Fellowship: Cardiology, University of Washington
Board-Certified: Internal Medicine
Board-Eligible: Cardiology
Oregon Cardiology, Sacred Heart Medical Center
3311 RiverBend Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 484-4332

Paul R. Stauffer, MD, General Surgery
Medical School: Jefferson Medical College
Internship/Residency: General Surgery, York Hospital
Board-Certified: Surgery: General
PeaceHealth Medical Group - Siuslaw, Surgery
330 Ninth St.
Florence, OR 97439
(541) 997-2820

David A. Stenstrom, MD, Hospitalist
Medical School: Oregon Health & Science University  
Internship/Residency: Internal Medicine, Legacy Health System  
Board-Eligible: Internal Medicine  
PeaceHealth Hospital Medicine  
3377 RiverBend Drive  
Springfield, OR 97477  
(541) 222-6389

Send notice of new physicians to Rebecca Taylor.

CME Opportunities

Learn about continuing medical education offerings at Sacred Heart Medical Center, including conferences, grand rounds and regularly scheduled sessions.

Online CME

Enduring online CME courses are now available at www.peacehealth.org/cme. Sessions cover a wide variety of topics, and new courses are posted as they become available. To receive credit, evaluation forms must be completed and submitted. The forms and instructions are posted on the web site.

See Also:

Conferences  
Medicine Grand Rounds  
Pediatric Grand Rounds  
Palliative Care Grand Rounds  
Regularly Scheduled Sessions (tumor boards, case review, trauma rounds, M&M meetings, journal clubs)

Up-to-date information about Continuing Medical Education is always available at www.peacehealth.org/cme.

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PO Box 1479, Eugene, 97440.

To send this email to a friend, click here.