

Central Region PhysicianNews

Central Region Medical Staff Newsletter

Message from Dr. Jeff Finkelstein



I'd like to address transfers and the duty we as Central Region physicians have to patients at outside hospitals who may need our services.

In 1986, Congress enacted the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to ensure public access to emergency services for everyone regardless of their ability to pay. This was done to combat "patient dumping" by private hospitals and ensure that the country had a safety net of all Medicare-participating hospitals.

As non-profit entities and for the greater good of our communities, hospitals in the Central Region and Hartford HealthCare as a whole participate in both the legal requirements of EMTALA as well as the spirit of EMTALA. All patients that present to our emergency rooms or labor and delivery suites are evaluated for an emergency medical condition and if needed, provided stabilizing care.

EMTALA was designed to prevent hospitals from refusing to see or transferring financially "undesirable" patients to public hospitals without, at a minimum, providing a medical screening examination and treatment to ensure they were stable for transfer.

Under EMTALA, there is also a requirement for hospitals to accept transfers, provided that they have the capacity and expertise to manage that type of patient. While this requirement is not new, requests for transfer into our two hospitals had been few and far between in years past. With the inception of the Care Logistics center (CLC), Central Region hospitals now collectively receive between 40 and 80 transfer requests per month from other hospitals, 70 to 90 percent of which are transfers within the Central region (Bradley to MidState or MidState to HOCC) and the rest are from other parts of Hartford HealthCare and beyond.

We have had pushback from some physicians who feel they are being unduly burdened. I understand and we try very hard to not burden on-call physicians. We liberally try to find available in-house resources to lessen the load. However, if we have the capacity and capabilities, hospitals are under federal law to accept transfers.

The bottom line is that physicians should not refuse transfers provided we have the capacity and ability to care for them. Ethically, we have the duty to care for patients in

need and legally, we would be violating federal law. Helping people is why we got into the business of healing in the first place.

Thank you for all you do.

Jeff Finkelstein, MD, FACEP
Vice President of Medical Affairs
Hartford HealthCare Central Region

Updates...

Epic upgrade coming April 6

On April 6, Hartford HealthCare will begin using an upgraded version of Epic. Customization options that will be temporarily unavailable from April 1 to 6 include: creating or editing SmartPhrases, SmartLinks, Note-Writer macros, Quick Actions in In Basket, personalizing dashboards, moving activities to a sidebar or floating window, and saving SlicerDicer sessions. Training is available in HealthStream. If you have questions, please send an email to CareConnectTraining@HHHealth.org.

HOCC opens new Spine Center

Adults struggling with acute back and neck pain issues now have access to specialized care at The Hospital of Central Connecticut Spine Center. The new center provides urgent and follow-up care for patients with new pain and injuries. The center, which accepts walk-ins and appointments, treats a variety of conditions, including:

- Back injuries
- Acute back and neck pain
- Acute on chronic back and neck pain
- Spinal stenosis
- Degenerative discs
- Pinched nerves
- Bulging discs
- Herniated discs
- Sciatica
- Muscle spasms

Patients may receive referrals for imaging, physical therapy, injections, pain management, and when appropriate, a surgical opinion. The center uses a multidisciplinary model, including clinicians from physiatry, behavioral health, pain management, spine surgery, emergency medicine, radiology, and more. To make an appointment, call 860.224.5535.

New team joins MidState Emergency Department

MidState Medical Center recently welcomed its new Emergency Department physician team and Dr. Mark Dzedzic as its new medical director. Dr. Dzedzic and his specially trained colleagues are dedicated to providing exceptional care and an outstanding patient experience. Members of the MidState ED and local first responders recently attended a

meet-and-greet event with Dr. Dziejczak and other Emergency Department staff members to learn more about the new team.

Text message reminders to improve patient experience

In an effort to gently remind people about upcoming outpatient imaging appointments, the Central Region will be the first within Hartford HealthCare to begin offering text message reminders. Text messaging will start with mammography patients and later expand to other imaging modalities.

HOCC receives quality award

The Hospital of Central Connecticut New Britain campus received the 2018 American Hospital Association's Mission Lifeline Gold Plus award. Hospitals receiving Get With The Guidelines® Gold Plus Achievement Award have reached an aggressive goal of treating patients with 85 percent or higher compliance to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for two consecutive calendar years. In addition, those hospitals have demonstrated 75 percent compliance to (four out of ten heart failure quality measures or seven out of ten stroke quality measures) during the 12-month period.

HOCC and New Britain EMS partner to improve patient care

On February 21, The Hospital of Central Connecticut partnered with New Britain EMS to go live with an IT interface called the Health Data Exchange. This program links the EMS patient report with the hospital's health record system, Epic, enabling rapid feedback on the patient's outcome. This exchange also provides the Emergency Department rapid access to the EMS patient chart to assist in patient care.

New breast surgeon joins HHC Cancer Institute at MidState

Dr. Niamey Wilson recently joined the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at MidState Medical Center. She was named Director of Breast Surgery Research and Quality for the Cancer Institute and Breast Surgery Division Leader for Hartford HealthCare Medical Group. In her role she is responsible for all breast surgical studies and will work to expand the clinical trial portfolio to ensure the latest trials are available to patients. Dr. Wilson is accepting new patients at 435 Lewis Ave., Suite 104, Meriden. To make an appointment, please call 203.694.5200.

HOCC welcomes new endocrine surgeon

Carrie Carsello, MD, FACS, a new endocrine surgeon, recently joined The Hospital of Central Connecticut. Dr. Carsello is the only Hartford HealthCare surgeon who is fellowship trained in endocrine surgery, which treats conditions including thyroid cancer, thyroid nodules, goiters, hyperparathyroidism, Graves' disease and nodules, tumors, and cancer of the adrenal glands. She specializes in surgeries of the thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands. Dr. Carsello is accepting patients by referral in her office at 183 North Mountain Road, New Britain. For an appointment, call 860.827.6068.

Central Region names new chief of cardiology

Andre Ghantous, MD, a fellowship-trained interventional cardiologist, has been named chief of cardiology for the Central Region. His areas of expertise include cardiovascular disease, interventional cardiology, and cardiac imaging. Dr. Ghantous, who is fluent in English and French, will see patients in his office at 863 North Main Street Extension, Suite 101, Wallingford. Patients can be referred to him by calling 203.269.3791.

Central Region recognizes med staff on Doctors' Day

Physicians touch the lives of countless patients. Whether as a caregiver or colleague, their dedication, compassion, expertise, and leadership have made a difference in the lives of many. On National Doctors' Day, you have an opportunity to show your gratitude in a meaningful way. The Philanthropy Department invites you to recognize a [MidState Medical Center](#) or [The Hospital of Central Connecticut](#) physician who has made a difference in your life by making a donation in their honor on their special day, March 30.

MMC neurosurgeon introduces HHC HealthCenter to Cheshire

This month's Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Coffee Before Hours featured Joel Bauman, MD, a neurosurgeon at MidState Medical Center. Dr. Bauman met with chamber members and the community at a local hotspot, Shef's Bagels in Cheshire, to talk about the services that will be available in the new Hartford HealthCare HealthCenter slated to open in town later in 2019. The new building, located at 266 S Main St., will offer services such as movement disorders, dermatology, cardiology, and much more.

Coming up...

Documentary exposes epidemic of provider self-harm

Stress, burnout and depression have become a silent epidemic facing physicians and advanced practice providers. In some cases, these issues lead to the unthinkable: people charged with 'doing no harm' actually harming themselves or committing suicide. Please join us for an exclusive screening of *Do No Harm*, a documentary that follows four people bonded by tragedy who are exposing this hidden epidemic. After the film, a panel of experts will lead a conversation about depression, suicide and well-being. The film will be shown in the Central Region on May 23, 2019. [Click here](#) to watch the film's trailer, and watch your inbox next week for your official invitation. This screening and panel discussion are part of our mission to improve the well-being of all providers through the Physician and Advanced Practice Provider Health and Wellness initiative. Through this event and other programs, Hartford HealthCare is working to reduce stigma, start an open dialogue and connect you to the support you need.

Join the Central Region Race in the Park team!

[Central Region Gets Fit](#), a community of Central Region colleagues dedicated to getting and staying fit together, has formed a team to run a race in May and you're invited to join! The 2019 CT Breast Health Initiative Race in the Park will be held on May 11 at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain. Click [here](#) to sign up and join the Central Region Gets Fit Team! Not sure if you're ready to run a race? Click [here](#) to stay updated on training tips from our very own Dr. David Buono, the chief of emergency medicine at The Hospital of Central Connecticut. For more information about Central Region Gets Fit, contact GetFit@hhchealth.org.

CME event for professionals who treat hoarders

Professionals who encounter or treat hoarders are invited to "Buried in Treasure: The Nature and Treatment of Hoarding Disorder," a CE event led by David F Tolin, PhD. The event will take place on Friday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in lecture rooms 1 and 2 at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, 100 Grand St., New Britain. The cost is \$150. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Physicians, psychologists, and social workers may receive six CE hours. To register, call 855.HHC.HERE.

Medical license renewal event

Our next session of A Review to Renew: Addressing the Mandatory Education for CT Medical License Renewal will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at Heublin Hall at Hartford Hospital. The cost is \$15 for HHC-privileged providers and \$20 for non-privileged providers. The session will cover one hour each on AIDS and HIV, sexual assault, domestic violence, cultural competency, pain management, PTSD and substance abuse in veterans and depression and suicide in veterans. Registration is required and limited to 120 participants. No walk-in registrations will be accepted.

In case you missed it...

COI receives Gold Seal of Approval for hip and knee procedures

On Jan. 29-30, The Connecticut Orthopedic Institute (COI) underwent a rigorous onsite review for The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for advanced certification for total hip and total knee replacement. The advanced certification is for Joint Commission-accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers seeking to elevate the quality, consistency and safety of their services and patient care. A Joint Commission expert evaluated compliance with advanced disease-specific care standards and total hip and total knee replacement requirements, including orthopedic consultation, and pre-operative, intraoperative and post-surgical orthopedic surgeon follow-up care.

The advanced certification will help COI better provide coordinated and comprehensive care to patients undergoing a total hip or total knee replacement. COI is the first hospital in HHC to achieve this certification and the second in the state. Currently, there are less than 100 hospitals in the nation that have The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for advanced certification for total hip and total knee replacement.

Established in 2016 and awarded for a two-year period, the advanced certification was developed in response to the growing number of patients undergoing a total hip or total knee replacement surgery, as well as the increased focus on clinical evidence-based patient care as it relates to pain management, quality-of-life issues, functional limitation in mobility and the return to normal daily activities.

Grants available to HHC staff for safety projects

Do you have a project that might help Hartford HealthCare take even better care of patients or employees? You might be eligible for a grant from the HHC Insurance Department to get it started. Projects should reduce patient harm or help employees and visitors stay safer and healthier in our facilities. Find more information on the [Quality/Safety Grant Program](#) page of HHC Connect.

HHC TV is here!

[Click here](#) to visit HHC TV and see what's happening at Hartford HealthCare, including stories featuring our colleagues, news to help you maintain work-life balance, plus sneak peeks at how we keep our system in the public eye.

Central Region introductions...

The Hospital of Central Connecticut welcomes:

Dmitry Drapach, DO – Hospitalist

Dr. Drapach is board certified in Family Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Saratov State Medical University and the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine/NYIT. He completed an internship at Saint John's Episcopal Hospital and a residency in Family Medicine at the Peninsula Hospital Center. Dr. Drapach's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052. He can be reached at (860) 224-5661.

Brian Martineau, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Martineau earned his medical degree from the University Of Connecticut School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Martineau's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut/Bradley Campus, Northeast Emergency Medical Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 81 Meriden Avenue, Southington, CT 06489. He can be reached at (860) 276-5000.

Subramani Seetharama, MD – Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation/Spinal Cord Injury Medicine

Dr. Seetharama is board certified in Physical Medicine & Rehab, Spinal Cord Injury Medicine, Sports Medicine-Orthopedics. He earned his medical degree from Armed Forces Medical College of Puna. He completed internships at Tata Main Hospital and Army Command Hospital (Eastern Command), and residencies in Internal Medicine and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Ohio Valley Medical Corp. and Saint Francis Medical Center. Dr. Seetharama's office is located at Hartford Hospital, 85 Seymour Street, Suite 609, Hartford, CT 06106. He can be reached at (860) 972-5107 x52959.

MidState Medical Center welcomes:

Samuel Amoakohene, MD - Anesthesiology

Dr. Amoakohene earned his medical degree from Medical College of Virginia. He completed an internship and residency at Maine Medical Center. Dr. Amoakohene's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Department of Anesthesiology, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-8164.

Peter Cuniowski, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Cuniowski is board certified in Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center. Dr. Cuniowski's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Mark Dzedzic, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Dzedzic is board certified in Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency

Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Dziejdzic's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Jeremy Fried, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Fried is board certified in Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Fried's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Thomas Gilmore, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Gilmore is board certified in Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Gilmore's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Barry Jacobs, MD - Pathology

Dr. Jacobs is board certified in Anatomic Pathology & Clinical Hematology Pathology. He earned his medical degree from New York Medical College. He completed residencies in Internal Medicine at North Bronx Municipal Healthcare Network-Jacobi Medical Center and Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Stamford Hospital, as well as a fellowship in Hematology/Transfusion Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Jacobs's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Department of Pathology, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052. He can be reached at (860) 224-5584.

Sean Kandel, DO - Hospitalist

Dr. Kandel is board certified in Internal Medicine. He earned his medical degree from NOVA Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Waterbury Hospital. Dr. Kandel's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, 100 Grand Street, Outpatient Clinic, New Britain, CT 06052. He can be reached at (860) 224-5261.

Christopher Mozdzanowski, DO – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Mozdzanowski is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Kent Hospital and a fellowship in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine at Kent Hospital. Dr. Mozdzanowski's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Gregory Shangold, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Shangold is board certified in Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Geisinger Medical Center. Dr. Shangold's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Stanley Stutz, MD – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Stutz is board certified in Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Albany Medical Center Hospital. Dr. Stutz's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, Department of Emergency Medicine, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. He can be reached at (203) 694-5770.

Alexandre Vdovenko, MD - Pathology

Dr. Vdovenko is board certified in Pathology. He earned his medical degree from Dniepropetrovsk Medical Institute. He completed an internship in General Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a residency in Anatomical Pathology at University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine and a fellowship in Surgical Pathology at Hartford Hospital. Dr. Vdovenko's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Hartford Pathology Associates, PC, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052. He can be reached at (860) 224-5584.

The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center welcome:

Anardi Agosto, MD - Hospitalist

Dr. Agosto is board certified in Internal Medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University Autonoma De Guadalajara. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Agosto's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Department of Medicine, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052. He can be reached at (860) 224-5661. At MidState Medical Center, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451, he can be reached at (203) 694-8566.

Uma Madhusudana, MD - Hospitalist

Dr. Madhusudana is board certified in Internal Medicine. She earned her medical degree from J.S.S. Medical College - India. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Woodhull Medical Center and Saint Vincent Medical Center. Dr. Madhusudana's office is located at MidState Medical Center, Hospitalist Program, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451. She can be reached at (203) 694-8566. At The Hospital of Central Connecticut, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052 she can be reached at (860) 224-5661.

Eric Reiner, DO – Radiology

Dr. Reiner is board certified in Interventional Radiology, Diagnostic Radiology, Vascular & Interventional Radiology. He earned his medical degree from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internship in Internal Medicine at the Hospital of Saint Raphael, a residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Albany Medical Center Hospital and a fellowship in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Reiner's office is located at MidState Radiology Associates, LLC, 326 Washington Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360. He can be reached at (203) 949-2700. At The Hospital of Central Connecticut, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052 he can be reached at (860) 224-5556.

Virginia Volpe, MD - Hospitalist

Dr. Volpe is board certified in Internal Medicine. She earned her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Health Science. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Volpe's office is located at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06052. She can be reached at (860) 224-5661. At MidState Medical Center, 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451 she can be reached at (203) 694-8566.

Don't see something you want to share? Email news items to Brenda.Kestenbaum@hhchealth.org.