EMMC Pediatric Care Update

The focus of this edition of the EMMC Provider Post is the advancement in pediatric care at EMMC over the past year. We have good news to share including improved access to specialty care, the addition of a modern, convenient outpatient care location, and the opening of our new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

In June 2016, we opened our new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This patient care area includes 29 private family suites to accommodate twins and triplets, and also includes a family room. We strive to provide the best possible experience for patients and families while they are away from home. Refrigerators for breast milk and a dedicated area for car seats are stationed in each room. A family room which includes a kitchenette, computers, and washer/dryer, are only steps away from any patient room. In addition to four neonatologists, a NICU hospitalist, and four neonatal nurse practitioners, EMMC welcomed two new neonatal nurse practitioners in February.

Outpatient Pediatric Services

We are excited to announce the opening of a beautiful new facility, EMMC Children’s Health, located on Corporate Drive in Bangor. This new center brings together EMMC’s primary care pediatric and many sub-specialty care providers to create an outpatient pediatric center. EMMC Children’s Health offers our patients an updated facility supporting the highest level of care. Co-locating pediatric primary care and many specialty services will improve our ability to care for the children of our region.

The following services are available at 133 Corporate Drive:

- EMMC Pediatric Primary Care
- EMMC Pediatric Specialty Care including:
  - Developmental Pediatrics
  - Cleft Lip/Palate

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Contact Us
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Frequently Used Phone Numbers:
Main Switchboard
207-973-7000

Emergency Department
207-973-8000

Health Information Services
207-973-7873

EMMC Inpatient Care
207-973-6676

EMMC Scheduling Center
207-973-8500

Transfer Center of Eastern Maine
207-973-9000 (1-877-EMMCNOW)

Outpatient, continued from front
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Dermatology
- Diabetes and Endocrinology
- Forensics
- Genetics
- Metabolic
- Neurology
- NICU Follow-Up Clinic
- Spina Bifida

The following services are available on EMMC’s State Street campus in Webber East, Suite 305:
- Cardiology
- Gastroenterology
- Infectious Disease
- Surgery

EMMC First in Maine to Offer New Life-Changing Robot-Assisted Surgeries for Pediatric Patients

Most children who have bladder control issues outgrow them by the time they begin school, but for kids who have health issues that cause the problem to persist, wetting can cause distress and embarrassment. For the first time in Maine, Eastern Maine Medical Center offers a new robot-assisted surgery to children who have bladder control problems due to abnormal urologic anatomy.

A heminephrectomy is a procedure in which part of the kidney is removed with the assistance of a surgical robot. Children who need a heminephrectomy often have a problem known as a duplex kidney. The non-functioning part of the kidney is removed, which leads to normal bladder control. The procedure, performed by Richard Caesar, MD, pediatric urologist, EMMC Urologic Surgery of Maine, usually results in improvement shortly after surgery. Dr. Caesar also corrects blockage of the kidney by performing a pyeloplasty, a procedure used to correct urinary obstruction by removing the narrow segment of the tube, which is the source of the blockage.

“Before, families would have to travel out of the state for these procedures, so being able to have the surgery close to home is a tremendous relief for them,” he says. “I’ve found that the children’s personalities change; they blossom and become more outgoing and confident, allowing them to enjoy school and have a normal life.”

Also new to Maine is a surgery Dr. Caesar performs to correct an intra-abdominal undescended testicle, a condition where a testicle hasn’t moved

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into the proper position before birth. Dr. Caesar performs this procedure using minimally invasive surgery.

“By using the robot I am able to provide the patient with a less invasive, more precise procedure which may result in less recovery time, less scarring, and fewer days spent in the hospital,” he explains. “The robot allows better visualization, technique, and precise placement of sutures, which is especially important when doing surgery on a child where body parts are much smaller.”

For more information about these procedures or pediatric urologic surgery please call 947-0469.

**New Specialists Caring for Patients of All Ages**

**Allergy and Immunology:** EMMC welcomes **Elias Akl, MD** to EMMC Allergy and Immunology Specialists. Dr. Akl completed his medical degree at the University of Balamand in Tripoli, Lebanon, fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University, and his residency and internship at Icahn School of Medicine in Mount Sinai, New York. Dr. Akl is a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine and is board eligible for the American Board of Allergy and Immunology. Dr. Akl specializes in treating asthma; allergies to food, medicine, and the environment; dermatologic issues; and intolerances and immunologic reactions for patients of all ages. To refer a patient at EMMC Allergy and Immunology Specialists, call 973-6584

**Otolaryngology:** EMMC also welcomes **Angela Tsai, MD,** to Eastern Maine Otolaryngology. Dr. Tsai completed her medical degree from the Boston University School of Medicine, and residency and internship at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Tsai is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and has a special interest in Mohs defect reconstruction. For disorders affecting their ears, nose, face, sinuses, throat, larynx, and neck, please call 973-9595 to refer a patient.

EMMC’s Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic

EMMC’s Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic is the only one of its kind in the region. The collaborative program bridges the gap for patients with CHD between their childhood and adult years, creating a smooth transition for their care. The clinic combines the expertise of pediatric and adult cardiologists, familiarizing young patients with both sets of physicians to increase their comfort as they outgrow the pediatric services. It also enables our cardiologists to fully understand the CHD issues of the patient through the continuum of care, ensuring that nothing gets lost in the transition. The cardiologists providing collaborative care are **Thomas Martin, MD,** pediatric cardiologist and **Paul vom Eigen, MD,** adult cardiologist. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 942-4108.

**EMMC Way to Optimal Weight (WOW) Childhood Obesity Clinic Expands**

In Maine, one in three kindergartners and nearly 28 percent of high school students are obese. EMMC’s Way to Optimal Weight clinic (WOW) at EMMC University Medicine in Orono focuses on treating children and adolescents (15 months – 19 years) with BMI greater than 85 percent. The multi-disciplinary team implements treatment modalities that strive to provide the most comprehensive and evidence-based therapies in an engaging and supportive environment. The clinic works with families to help build on these goals at home.

WOW recently expanded access. The program welcomed nurse practitioners **Nancy Browne, PPCNP,** and **Kathrin Hastey, MSN, FNP-BC.**

Also new to the WOW team are two behavioral health experts: **Michele Potvin, LCSW** and **Jennifer Curran, PhD.** With the help of EMHS Information Systems, WOW extended services north by launching a telemedicine pilot with EMHS member hospital The Aroostook Medical Center. Also in August 2016, WOW had the opportunity to collaborate with many community resources – The New Balance Student Recreation Center, Cooking Matters, University of Maine, and Strong Minds/Strong Bodies to offer a dynamic week-long day camp for WOW kids. This was a pilot, which was generously funded by the EMHS PICH

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EMMC Welcomes New Pediatric Care Providers

When a child is sick, both the patient and the family appreciate the convenience of having access to a specialist without needing to travel outside of the region. Recognizing an opportunity to improve the availability of pediatric specialty care, EMMC has added several new specialists to its team. Pediatric specialties that have been added or expanded include endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology and oncology, inpatient care, neonatal intensive care, neurology, and surgery.

Mahmuda Ahmed, MD
Endocrinology:
207-973-7520

Edward Jernigan, MD
Neurology:
207-275-4290

Chittalsinh Raulji, MD
Hematology/Oncology:
207-973-7572

Elias Akl, MD
Allergy and Immunology:
207-973-6584

Jay Kerecman, MD
Neonatal Intensive Care:
207-973-8670

Brooke Surran, MD
Neurology:
207-275-4290

Allison Behrle Yardley, MD
Gastroenterology:
207-973-7107

Nathalie Kremer, MD
Pediatric Surgery:
207-973-8853

Jeremy Yardley, MD
Inpatient Hospitalist:
207-973-8955

WOW, continued

grant, to determine if building connections between the healthcare team and community programs focused on improving health for kids could be educational and enjoyable for the kids. “The report card from our kids and families at the end of the week – A+! WOW Summer Camp was a hit.” explains Valerie O’Hara, DO, FAAP, ABOM, director, EMMC’s WOW program. WOW hopes to obtain funding in order to provide this program again this summer.

If you know someone who is interested in a referral to EMMC’s WOW Program, call (207) 581-4WOW(4969).