



A Growing Trend in Health Care

BCMh isn't alone in working with hospitalists. The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) estimates the specialty has expanded from just a few hundred a decade ago, to more than 40,000 practicing hospitalists across the country today.

SHM research shows hospitalist programs have grown because they allow primary care providers to focus on seeing their office patients. Other benefits include improved patient satisfaction, reduced patient lengths of stay, reduced treatment costs and overall improvements in efficiency.

With the hospitalist on-site, patients may see the doctor more often than under the traditional system where the provider made rounds, then returned to the office to see patients. Ultimately, the hospitalist is more available to patients and families to answer questions and explain treatment options, giving primary care providers more time to devote to their clinic patients.

"This program should help us be much more efficient in the care we provide all of our patients," Dr. Miller explains.

BCMh Hospitalists Keep Patients Close to Home

Bates County Memorial Hospital (BCMh) is joining a growing number of hospitals across the nation by providing a more advanced level of inpatient care using a new type of physician specialist called a hospitalist. To make a hospitalist program a reality for the community, BCMh is collaborating with Saint Luke's Health System and Saint Luke's Physician Specialists, a group of doctors including 47 hospitalists. These physicians take care of patients while they are in the hospital, and have been trained in internal medicine or family medicine.

"The hospital board carefully considered several options for a hospitalist program, but ultimately decided collaborating with Saint Luke's, one of the region's quality health care providers, offered us the best solution," says Edward Hannon, BCMh Chief Executive Officer. "A special thanks to Anthony Fangman, M.D., and his team at Saint Luke's for facilitating the BCMh hospitalist program. Their support and collaborative efforts are sure to make our program a success for our patients and the community."

"A hospitalist program allows us to deliver a more modern approach to inpatient care at BCMh and is much more efficient for our patients and our staff," says James Miller, D.O., Nursery Street Family Care Clinic. "This program helps us provide a better continuity of care for our patients."

Continued on page 2



The BCMh inpatient nursing staff is working closely with the new hospitalists to care for more patients locally.



Hospitalists Bring Specialized Care continued from page 1

John Bustle, M.D., Nursery Street and Adrian Family Care Clinics, agrees with Dr. Miller and adds, “The hospitalist program makes it possible for BCMH to offer the same level of care here that is available at many hospitals in the city, without having to transfer patients there. That means we can take care of more patients locally. That’s good for our patients, the community and our hospital.”

Other Advantages for BCMH Patients

There are many other advantages to the BCMH program for the hospital’s patients:

- On-site hospitalist presence allows more time to spend with patients and family members to discuss treatment plans.
- Increases efficiency to order and follow up on tests.
- Availability to respond to nurses’ questions and concerns immediately.

- Close working relationships with every department and doctor on staff, as well as the physician specialists and resources available through the Saint Luke’s network.
- Opportunity to respond to patient care concerns throughout the day as they develop.
- Caring for patients who do not have a primary care provider.

When released, the patient returns to his or her primary care provider for follow-up and treatment. The BCMH hospitalists work closely with the patient’s primary care provider to transition care smoothly, but do not see patients after dismissal, unless the patient is re-admitted to the hospital.

“Probably the biggest advantage to the BCMH hospitalist program for our inpatients is that they only have to travel 60 feet from their primary care provider’s office to access a higher level of care,” Hannon says, “not 60 miles.”

For more information about BCMH or the hospitalists, visit www.bcmhospital.com.

The Doctor is ALWAYS in. . .

At BCMH, the hospitalist is on-site seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., overseeing the patient’s care throughout their hospital stay, from admission through dismissal.

After hours, a member of the Saint Luke’s hospitalist team is available via an innovative telemedicine program only being used at a handful of area hospitals.

During a telemedicine consult, live video and sound from the patient can be transmitted to the specialist, along with the patient’s test results, such as a CT scan or lab tests. The hospitalist or specialist can determine the best plan of action for the patient. BCMH already successfully uses telemedicine for its stroke program.

“If a patient experiences a complication after hours, we can quickly bring the telemedicine robot to the patient’s bedside so the hospitalist or specialist can have a face-to-face consult with the patient and see what the patient is experiencing,” explains Becky Tarver, R.N., Chief Nursing Officer. “Our

nursing staff is very excited about the hospitalist program and the opportunity to advance medical care for our patients here.”

“The telemedicine robot not only makes consults with the hospitalists possible after hours, but also gives us

greater access to the other specialists at Saint Luke’s in the event of a problem,” Dr. Bustle says. “Though there will still be some patients we will need to transfer to the city, telemedicine will help us provide more complex care right here at BCMH.”



Daniel Cook, Information Systems Specialist, Rebecca Tarver, Chief Nursing Officer, and Jennifer Schmehl, RN, Nurse Manager, have been involved in bringing the hospitalists telemedicine program to BCMH.

Dr. Galant to Lead BCMH Hospitalist Team

*Though a hospitalist program is new to Bates County Memorial Hospital (BCMh), it's the medical specialty **Mark Galant, M.D.**, the BCMh lead hospitalist, has been practicing exclusively since 1998.*

Dr. Galant started his medical career in 1985, establishing his own internal medicine private practice in Belton, Mo. Even though he enjoyed serving the community and his patients there, he received an offer in 1998 to focus on hospital medicine.

"I was one of the first in the Kansas City area to specialize as a hospitalist," Dr. Galant says. "I enjoy taking care of more complex, higher acuity patients."

Through the years, he's seen the role of hospitalist evolve into the fastest growing specialty in medicine; and he's cared for patients at a number of Kansas City area hospitals, including Research Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, and most recently, St. Joseph Health Center.

In his experience, Dr. Galant says communication with the hospital's nursing staff, patients, families and primary care providers is the key to a successful hospitalist program. "Follow-up with the patient's primary care provider is absolutely essential to providing the best care possible for our patients," he says.

Dr. Galant is board certified in internal medicine. He performed an internal medicine residency at Truman Medical Center, and earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

He has lived in Raymore, Mo., for 30 years with his wife, Carol, who is a nurse at Belton Regional Medical Center. They have two adult daughters, one who is a pharmacist, and one who is in pharmacy school. Dr. Galant is an avid fisherman whose pastime is walleye fishing on Stockton Lake.

"Over the years, I have worked with many of the primary care providers and the specialists from BCMh, and I have taken care of many patients from this area who have been referred to the city for care," Dr. Galant adds. "I think we will make a good team and can develop an outstanding hospitalist program for our patients in Bates County."



Meet the BCMH Hospitalist Team

In addition to Dr. Galant, three other physicians are working with the BCMh hospitalist program. They include:

• Tamara Crouse, D.O.



Dr. Crouse practiced as a hospitalist most recently with Heartland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, Mo. She is board certified in family medicine, and performed her residency at Research Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo. She earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Kansas City, Mo.

• Preeti Sood, M.D.



Dr. Sood most recently practiced at Centerpoint Medical Center, Independence, Mo. She is board certified in internal medicine. She performed an internal medicine residency with Truman Medical Center/Saint Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., and earned her medical degree from Saba University School of Medicine.

• Berhane Solomon, M.D.



Dr. Solomon is board certified in internal medicine and practiced as a hospitalist most recently at Heartland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, Mo. He performed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan., and earned his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine.

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