Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center Finalize Acquisition Transaction

Cabell Huntington Hospital Named Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

MHC ACO to participate in Medicare Shared Savings Program

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Gynecologic Oncology Surgeon
Master Surgeon in Minimally Invasive Gynecology by COEMIG
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On Tuesday, May 1, Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) completed the final steps of financing and paperwork for the consummation of the transaction with Pallottine Health Services, Inc., to acquire St. Mary’s Medical Center (SMMC). This was the final step in the lengthy process that began in 2014.

“Today is a historic day that we will reflect on for decades,” stated Kevin Yingling, RPh, MD, Chairman, CHH Board of Directors. “Throughout the nearly four-year quest, members of the medical community, business community and community at-large have maintained the vision of creating a medical system that benefits the community by improving quality, access and affordability. On behalf of the Cabell Huntington Hospital Board of Directors, thank you for your unwavering support. We are committed to working with these separate organizations to build a regional system that will exceed your expectations.”

“We now have the opportunity to work together and share best practices in quality and patient experience that will move care in this region to the next level for patients,” stated Kevin Fowler, President and Chief Executive Officer, CHH. “We look forward to continuing as independent entities, yet challenging each other to improve specialized services, implementing new technologies and defining the future health care for this region and beyond.”

According to Michael Sellards, President and Chief Executive Officer, SMMC, “We are pleased that the transaction has been finally been completed. While we embrace our separate and distinct cultures, CHH and SMMC have a shared vision for the needs of our community and are fully invested in meeting them. The significance of local ownership ensures decisions are made that benefit our region and meet the growing health care needs of the poor and uninsured.”

“The driving force behind the transaction is to deliver access to the highest quality care in the most cost effective and efficient manner to our community,” said Monte Ward, CHH Senior Vice President and Chief Acquisition and Financial Officer. “Reducing health care costs while improving the specialized services offered at both facilities are essential to long-term sustainability in this new health care environment. By complementing our unique strengths, we can reinvest dollars locally and bolster the region’s economic vitality.”

With the closing of the transaction, the process can begin to create a comprehensive healthcare system for the region. The first step in that process has been taken with the naming of Gary White to serve as Interim CEO of the system. In that role, Mr. White will be responsible for the operational and strategic planning of the two hospitals as they each become an integral part of the system. In doing so, he will be laying the groundwork for the permanent system CEO.

“Both St. Mary’s Medical Center and Cabell Huntington Hospital will maintain individual identities with a business model that aligns the organizations to become a regional healthcare leader,” stated White. “Each nationally-recognized organization will continue to operate as a separate, fully functioning facility, while working together to provide the best technology, processes and expertise.”

Now that the transaction is complete, CHH and SMMC will begin carrying out the plans that were outlined four years ago. They include adopting uniform best practices and common protocols, developing centers of excellence, integrating electronic medical records, avoiding costly equipment duplication, recruiting highly trained physician specialists, and coordinating and implementing wellness and population health measures.

For more information, visit www.cabellhuntington.org or www.st-marys.org.
More than 13,500 Tri-State Medicare beneficiaries will benefit from an innovative, highly coordinated, quality-driven approach to care as the MHC Accountable Care Organization began participation in January 2018 in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP).

Launched by Medicare to advance the Affordable Care Act, the MSSP facilitates coordination and cooperation among providers both to improve the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries and to reduce unnecessary costs. Its three-part aim is to promote:

- Better care for individuals;
- Better health for the population served; and
- Containment of the growth in health care costs.

In an innovative regional partnership, Marshall Health, Huntington Internal Medicine Group and Cabell Huntington Hospital, Inc., have joined to create MHC Accountable Care Organization LLC (MHC ACO) to participate in MSSP. As part of the MSSP, MHC ACO, along with Marshall Health, Huntington Internal Medicine Group and Cabell Huntington Hospital will work with other health care providers to ensure that traditional Medicare patients in the Tri-State region attributed to MHC ACO receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

“With the number of Medicare patients across the region only continuing to grow, this partnership represents the major health care providers in our region coming together to best care for this vulnerable population,” said Joseph I. Shapiro, M.D., dean of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and board chair for its faculty practice plan, Marshall Health. “This initiative is as much about improving and coordinating care as it is a cost-containment measure for the care of our seniors.”

“HIMG is pleased to partner with Marshall Health and Cabell Huntington Hospital to jointly collaborate on MHC for the benefit of traditional Medicare beneficiaries within the region,” stated Mark Morgan, CEO, Huntington Internal Medicine Group. “We are excited about this partnership for our physicians, staff and ultimately each of those participants in the ACO. We believe this is a watershed moment within the community as these respective strong organizations work jointly, to improve the health and wellness of our community.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Marshall Health and HIMG in this innovative program that places patients at the center of their care,” said Kevin N. Fowler, president & CEO, Cabell Huntington Hospital. “MHC ACO is about leveraging the benefits/capabilities of information technology to proactively coordinate high-quality care for Medicare beneficiaries, especially those who are managing multiple or severe chronic conditions. Through this partnership, we will strive to enhance access and smooth transitions throughout the care continuum to improve patient outcomes and the patient experience.”

This more integrated, quality-driven approach means patient needs are at the forefront of our care approach. It assures a pro-active relationship among patient and providers and offers assistance in navigating care across settings.

The Medicare Shared Savings Program rewards ACOs that improve outcomes and meet quality standards while containing overall health care costs.
2018 Summit Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General was the 2018 Regional Health Summit keynote speaker on Thursday, May 10th. Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH, the 20th Surgeon General of the United States, was sworn into office by Vice President Mike Pence on September 5, 2017.

Dr. Adams’ motto as Surgeon General is “better health through better partnerships.” As Surgeon General, Dr. Adams is committed to maintaining strong relationships with the public health community and forging new partnerships with non-traditional partners, including business and law enforcement. He has pledged to lead with science, facilitate locally led solutions to the nation’s most difficult health problems, and deliver higher quality healthcare at lower cost through patient and community engagement and better prevention.

The 2018 Regional Health Summit brought together more than 50 health care organizations, health care providers, community partners, researchers, and policy makers to continue to build regional efforts in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia to improve health, wellness and prevention efforts across the Region. The Summit, built strategy around population health, focused on four key themes of access to care, behavioral health & substance abuse, chronic disease, and data & technology.

The 2018 Summit featured plenary sessions with cutting-edge presenters on how to transform communities to live longer and better, leveraging new technologies to support health improvement initiatives, and how good community health is good for business. Breakout sessions highlighted innovative approaches to targeting the four theme areas of access to care, behavioral health & substance abuse, chronic disease, and data & technology. A hands-on pre-Summit workshop, Building Community Networks to Improve Health focused on developing skills that evaluated inter-organizational and community networks.
Trauma Kits for Local Law Enforcement

Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) donated 48 trauma kits to the Cabell County Sheriff’s Department to help officers control potentially life-threatening bleeding as a result of various types of medical events they may encounter.

Extensive education and training also have been provided by the hospital to ensure proper use.

The trauma kits contain:
- Quick clot pads – used to rapidly stop severe bleeding
- A tourniquet
- A gauze pack
- A pressure bandage
- Medical gloves

Needle-Resistant Gloves for First Responders

Cabell Huntington Hospital donated $11,856 to the Cabell County Emergency Medical Technicians, the Cabell County Sheriff’s Office and the Huntington Police Department to purchase needle-resistant gloves. The donation allows for the purchase of up to 103 gloves that protect first responders who often deal with overdoses and find syringes while trying to provide care.

CHH Joins Open To All Campaign

Cabell Huntington Hospital joined Marshall University, city leaders and area businesses in a pledge of commitment to promote diversity, equality and inclusion. Open to All is a nationwide campaign to help protect nondiscrimination laws. These laws ensure that when businesses open their doors to the public, they serve everyone on the same terms regardless of race, religion, ancestry, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

A.D. Lewis Center Receives Endowment

Cabell Huntington Hospital presented the A.D. Lewis Community Center with a $1 million endowment. The donation was the result of CHH’s involvement with the Fairfield Alliance, which consists of more than 40 members from local, state and federal organizations, working together for the betterment of the Fairfield community. The funding will be used in partnership with Marshall University to provide enrichment activities through students who will serve as mentors, coaches and tutors for the children at the center.
CHH Supports Dress for Success

Cabell Huntington Hospital also presented a $5,000 check to further the Dress For Success “Best Foot Forward” initiative. The nonprofit serves women in 152 cities in 28 countries on their journey to economic independence. Over the last 10 years, Dress for Success River Cities has provided in excess of 2,500 women with the professional attire and resources to succeed in work and in life.

CHH donates to STEM+M Academy’s Program

Cabell Huntington Hospital presented a donation of more than $35,000 to the Tri-State STEM+M Academy to support Project Lead the Way, a national program designed to teach high school students the process of defining and solving problems without focusing on getting the right answer. The program is a national initiative to provide youth with the skills needed for critical thinking and problem solving.

Your Partners for Life.
**Assaley Appointed Executive Medical Director of Perioperative Services at Cabell Huntington Hospital**

Joseph P. Assaley, MD, FACOG, obstetrician and gynecologist at Cabell Huntington Hospital’s (CHH) Huntington Women’s Health has been appointed Executive Medical Director of Perioperative Services at CHH.

In this role, Dr. Assaley will oversee the development of the overall leadership structure, business plan, quality and plans for growth for surgical services which includes Anesthesia, Endoscopy, the CHH Surgery Center, PAT, Pre-Operative Services, Operating Room, PACU, and Central Sterile Processing.

Dr. Assaley received his medical degree from Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Chicago Lying-In, University of Chicago. He is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He joined the Medical and Dental Staff at Cabell Huntington Hospital in 1992 and also holds a master’s degree in Community Health Education from West Virginia University.

“We are excited that Dr. Assaley has agreed to provide his knowledge and talents in this role,” said Kevin Fowler, president and CEO of Cabell Huntington Hospital. “His expertise and leadership will continue the excellent care and service in Perioperative Services.”

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**Cabell Huntington Hospital Named Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery**

Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) has been recognized as a Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (COEMIG) by the Surgery Review Corporation (SRC). CHH is the only hospital in the state of West Virginia to achieve this recognition.

Minimally invasive surgery offers numerous patient benefits including:

- Shorter hospital stay
- Less post-operative pain and faster recovery
- Less risk of infection
- Decreased blood loss
- Less scarring
- Quicker return to normal activities

“The accreditation by the SRC demonstrates exceptional minimally invasive gynecologic surgical care,” said Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD, gynecologic oncologist at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center at CHH and assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. “We are dedicated to continually improving healthcare quality and patient safety and this designation confirms it.”

The goal of the COEMIG program is to improve patient safety and satisfaction, increase access to minimally invasive gynecologic procedures and provide data-driven results.

*For more information on minimally invasive procedures at Cabell Huntington Hospital, please call 304.781.IMIS (4647).*

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**Bou Zgheib to Serve as Chair of the Robotics Committee**

Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD, a board-certified and fellowship-trained gynecologic oncologist, has been appointed Chair of the Cabell Huntington Hospital Robotics Committee. He replaces recently retired Chair Gerard Oakley, MD.

Dr. Bou Zgheib, an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been a member of the Medical and Dental Staff at Cabell Huntington Hospital since 2014. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has completed extensive training in gynecologic cancer diagnosis and treatment and minimally invasive surgery, including da Vinci® surgery.

Dr. Bou Zgheib completed fellowship training in clinical and research gynecologic oncology at the Moffitt Cancer Center at the University of South Florida. Additionally, he underwent advanced surgical training for gynecologic malignancies and special pelvic procedures at the Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation in Tampa, FL.
James Jensen, MD, board-certified urologic oncologist, will serve as Interim Medical Director of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center (ECCC) at Cabell Huntington Hospital. This follows Dr. Gerard Oakley’s retirement.

In this position, Dr. Jensen will oversee the medical leadership structure and clinical operations of the ECCC while a national search is conducted for the position. He is a professor in the Department of Surgery at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

“Dr. Jensen has been a leader and contributed to many ECCC milestones, including the center’s growth and reputation as a regional destination for cancer care,” said Kevin Fowler, president and CEO of Cabell Huntington Hospital. “I am pleased Dr. Jensen will lead this transition and feel confident he will provide excellent leadership.”

Dr. Jensen is world-renowned in robotic, urologic surgery with nearly 10,000 hours of experience using the da Vinci® Surgical System. He has performed nearly 1,500 robotic kidney, bladder and prostate cancer procedures and was among the first 20 physicians in the nation to adopt robotic surgery as a full-time practice.

Dr. Jensen joined the Medical and Dental Staff at Cabell Huntington Hospital in 2007. He received his medical degree from the Pritzker School of Medicine in Chicago, IL, and completed his residency in urology and oncology at the University of California Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA.

Cabell Huntington Hospital is expanding lab services to include toxicology for drug screenings, confirmations and secondary analysis using different technology to identify specific drugs, their levels as well as other more minute aspects of the initial drug screening. This is significant not only in providing more timely and precise results, but also allows this important service be provided in West Virginia.

Currently, all drug testing confirmation in West Virginia is outsourced to vendors in a number of states; officials estimate that approximately $120-$140 million in health care costs is exported. With the addition of the new laboratory, those health care dollars will stay in the state.

The new toxicology lab, developed in collaboration with Marshall University’s nationally recognized Forensics Science Graduate Program will assist tremendously in the region’s response to the opioid epidemic by offering a full range of toxicology lab services.

“As a national leader who is addressing the opioid epidemic, we will be able to quickly confirm the presence and level of substances,” said Kevin N. Fowler, president and CEO, Cabell Huntington Hospital. “As a commitment to this important service, we are expanding the lab staff to include toxicology and technicians specifically trained to use highly complex instrumentation which translates to better, more coordinated and timely testing.”

James B. Becker, MD, vice dean for government relations, health care policy & external affairs at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and a family medicine physician, said the new laboratory will be very beneficial to physicians, law enforcement and others.

“While we have long provided prompt screening, the addition of this service will dramatically improve the information available to clinicians and reduce the turn-around time on the testing,” Becker said. “The service will also support the regional needs of our providers of medication assisted treatment. State-of-the-art technology will enable providers to identify drugs of abuse and also monitor compliance with treatment regimens.”
Health care leaders in the Huntington/Charleston region have joined forces to form PROACT, the Provider Response Organization for Addiction Care and Treatment, to address the clinical, behavioral, spiritual and professional issues of those affected by the epidemic of substance use.

Partner institutions include Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary’s Medical Center and Marshall Health, which have each committed financial and human resources to the collective organization. Additionally, Thomas Health and Valley Health have become members of PROACT, extending the reach of and expanding the partnership. The non-profit organization will rely on funding from its founding institutions, grant awards, business operations and private donations to sustain its efforts in the years to come.

PROACT services will be provided to individuals on a referral and walk-in basis. The center’s staff will provide an immediate needs assessment for the individual and then placement within the most beneficial avenues for that person’s needs. The PROACT system is designed to fill the gaps at critical access points that currently exist in the substance use disorder arena for both patients and providers.

“We are very excited to see this partnership of health care providers using their collective resources to address a very significant public health issue,” said Gene Preston, vice president at Cabell Huntington Hospital and president of the PROACT board of directors. “Truly, our community’s strength is harnessed in what will make a substantial difference in this area.”

PROACT’s goal is to provide individuals and their families with a viable system that provides positive outcomes. The center will function as the centralized hub for treatment, recovery, therapy, education, research, workforce opportunities and support for those affected by addiction. PROACT will improve and increase access for patients and providers dealing with substance use disorder as well provide the necessary support for all community physicians treating patients with the disorder.

“Our community has needs that run very deep. All of our organizations have made efforts to combat the addiction issues here and the most recent statistics have shown that progress is being made in our community. We hope that the unification of those efforts will further help perpetuate these positive results,” said Angie Swearingen, vice president of finance at St. Mary’s Medical Center and PROACT board member.

PROACT will be staffed by one coordinating director and rely upon committed human resources from the sponsoring organizations and outside entities. Individual and group therapy options, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), recovery programs and other substance use-focused considerations are among the many pathways that will be available.

“Going back three-to-five years, you can recognize efforts throughout Huntington as pioneering in many of the most beneficial and proven innovations that have helped in the treatment of substance use disorders,” said Kevin Yingling, R.Ph., M.D., chair of the board of directors at Cabell Huntington Hospital and professor of internal medicine at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

“The Quick Response Team, Lily’s Place and the development of the enhanced Harm Reduction Coalition are examples of the work initiated by our community’s leadership toward the challenges of substance use. It’s a cornerstone moment for this effort and hopes are that it will be a model for other communities to replicate.”

The long-term vision for PROACT includes growth in services and areas recognized as beneficial for all those involved, including individuals, families, employers, government and others.

“This hub and spoke model will allow us to implement best practices for the treatment of substance use disorders including important care pathways and continuum of care, “said Beth Hammers, CEO of Marshall Health and vice president of the PROACT board of directors.

Geographically, the PROACT model will initially encompass the Charleston-Huntington region and other areas of the state via telemedicine capabilities.

“The struggles of substance use are not unique to Charleston, to Huntington, or to any city. They’re real and they’re happening everywhere. We believe in the PROACT effort and we’re proud to join the team,” said Daniel Lauffer, President and CEO of Thomas Health.

The center’s physical location in Huntington will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

More information about PROACT and the partner organizations is available at www.proactwv.com.
NEW Programs & Services

Young Women’s Health and Hematology Clinic
Marshall Obstetrics & Gynecology and Cabell Huntington Hospital offer a monthly Young Women’s Health and Hematology Clinic on the second Thursday of each month.

The clinic is exclusively for young women ages 10 to 24 who experience menorrhagia and abnormal vaginal bleeding, and specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal vaginal bleeding and patient education, including the need for specialized health care in the future, especially during surgery, trauma or childbirth.

Patients have one-stop access during their doctor visit to lab work, ultrasounds and other radiology services, as needed.

Physician referrals can be made through the Marshall Health Physician Referral Line by calling 304.691.5333.

Chest Pain Observation Unit
To provide specialized diagnostic care for patients presenting with symptoms of a heart attack, Cabell Huntington Hospital has opened a new 9-bed dedicated Chest Pain Observation Unit.

The new unit is located on the third floor of CHH and is fully staffed with a central telemetry station where cardiac data such as heart rate and rhythm are collected. The unit also works closely with EKG, ECHO and Cardiac Rehab to provide a more comprehensive assessment of patients.

The additional beds will allow the use of evidence-based protocols for chest pain evaluation and treatment. The new unit will deliver care for patients with coronary artery disease while expediting the outpatient observation work-up and release of lower-risk patients with non-cardiac chest pain.

For more information please call 304.399.1545.

MOMS Program
The Hoops Family Children’s Hospital at Cabell Huntington Hospital has created a program that begins once a mother gives birth and provides comprehensive addiction treatment services that promote bonding between mother and baby.

The MOMS (Maternal Opioid Medication Support) program was developed to provide addiction treatment services to postpartum women, not currently in a treatment program, while their babies are recovering from neonatal abstinence syndrome (a group of problems that occur in newborns exposed to addictive drugs) in the Neonatal Therapy Unit (NTU).

The goal is to provide medication stabilization, psychological and medical treatment, education and training that will create a solid foundation for a healthy, productive life-style that will benefit the mother as well as the family network. This education includes a team of experts who address the specific needs of mothers and offers a range of services from counseling to occupational rehabilitation with a goal to end the cycle of addiction.

Senior Pain & Wellness Center
Marshall Health’s new Senior Pain and Wellness Center utilizes the most advanced medical and interventional pain management techniques to diagnose and treat pain conditions in adults 55 and older.

The center emphasizes preventive medicine and focuses on restoring function in senior adults coping with conditions such as chronic back pain, arthritis pain, degenerative disc disease, degenerative joint disease and sciatica. A variety of treatment options are available at the center, including epidural steroid injections, facet nerve blocks, radiofrequency ablation, joint injections, trigger point injections, spinal cord stimulation and more.

The Center is lead by Joseph DeLapa, MD, a fellowship-trained, double board certified interventional pain management physician and anesthesiologist. He has practiced pain management at Cabell Huntington Hospital’s Pain Management Center since 2013 and served as president/CEO of the Interventional Pain and Spine Center at Bellefonte, PSC in Ashland, Kentucky, from 2009-2013.

The Marshall Senior Pain and Wellness Center, an outpatient department of Cabell Huntington Hospital, is located in the 20th Street Professional Building at 1115 20th Street in Huntington.

To schedule an appointment for your senior patients, please call 304.691.6779.
Cabell Huntington Hospital becomes first hospital in West Virginia to adopt sepsis prediction machine learning algorithm

Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH), is the first hospital in West Virginia to adopt InSight, a machine learning algorithm for sepsis prediction.

Developed by Dascena, Inc., InSight analyzes routinely collected data in the electronic health record to forecast sepsis and provide nurses and physicians with several hours of lead time for sepsis treatment. In a recent randomized clinical trial, mortality decreased by 12.4 percentage points with InSight, a relative reduction of 58%. CHH has reduced its sepsis-related in-hospital mortality by 33.5% and its sepsis-related hospital length of stay by 17.1%.

“We can now be one step ahead in diagnosing and treating sepsis, where hours and minutes can mean the difference between life and death,” added Eduardo Pino, MD, Medical Director of the Hoops Family Children’s Hospital at CHH.

“Because the early clinical diagnosis of sepsis can be challenging and time is so critical, we turned to Insight to assist nurses and physicians with an earlier electronic alerting system. We are already seeing a positive impact for our patients through improved rates of survival,” stated Hoyt J. Burdick, MD, senior vice president and chief medical officer.

“Cabell Huntington Hospital has a strong reputation of delivering exceptional quality patient care,” said Ritankar Das, chief executive officer of Dascena. “We are excited to work with them on combating sepsis, a life-threatening condition that kills an American nearly every two minutes.”

Dascena, Inc. is a science and technology company developing algorithms as predictive biomarkers for complex conditions in inpatient and emergency settings. Our NIH-funded machine learning and clinical research has led to our suite of AlgoDiagnostics™ for predicting acute decompensation, sepsis and acute kidney injury, resulting in several peer-reviewed publications. Providers across the country use our AlgoDiagnostics on tens of thousands of patients per year to make early, accurate, and often life-saving interventions.