Lung cancer patients in central Iowa now have access to a specialty clinic allowing them to receive comprehensive treatment and support more quickly and conveniently than ever before. The Mercy Lung Cancer Clinic will open to patients June 5 at Mercy Medical Plaza. The new clinic will offer a multidisciplinary approach to the evaluation and management of lung masses and lung cancer.

The new clinic allows patients to make a single appointment, during which time they will see multiple specialists all in one location. By combining these services during the same outpatient visit, extra travel time, expense and time away from patients’ normal activities is eliminated. The experienced team providing patient care includes pulmonologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, thoracic surgeons and others from Mercy Cancer Center, CIC Associates, Iowa Heart Center, Medical Oncology & Hematology Associates and Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines. These providers work collectively to offer a compassionate, comprehensive consultation and an individualized treatment plan for each patient.

In addition to the time-saving benefit to patients, Mercy Lung Cancer Clinic offers these benefits:

- Providers work together and with patients and their families to develop the treatment plan best suited for the patient
- Mercy Cancer Center’s state-of-the-art treatment options such as the da Vinci® Surgical System for minimally invasive lung cancer resection, the CyberKnife® stereotactic radiosurgery system, and targeted medical therapies
- A nurse navigator available to help coordinate cancer testing and treatments, and link patients to support networks and community services
- Easy access to the education and support services offered by the Mercy Cancer Center
- One referral by the primary care physician or office staff
- Reduced amount of time between diagnosis and treatment

The Mercy Lung Cancer Clinic is designed for treatment of patients who have previously received a lung cancer diagnosis. Patients will need a referral from their primary care provider. Find out more at mercydesmoines.org/healthylung.

MERCY WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF TRANSPLANT SERVICES

In April, Mercy welcomed Meghan Stephenson, RN, MSN, CPTC, as the new director of transplant services. For the past 11 years, Stephenson worked for the Iowa Donor Network in deceased organ donor management and recovery and hospital development. In addition, she served an instrumental role in Iowa Donor Network’s process improvement journey as part of the organization’s work with the Iowa Quality Center and the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence.

Prior to her work with Iowa Donor Network, Stephenson worked as a critical care nurse. She has earned her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus in leadership in health care delivery. She also holds certification as a Transplant Procurement Coordinator from the American Board for Transplant Certification.
NEW MEDICATION DROP BOX AVAILABLE AT CENTRAL CAMPUS

Through the efforts of Mercy’s pharmacies and Pain Center, Mercy is the first hospital in central Iowa to offer patients and the general community a safe, secure location for disposing of expired or unused medications. The new Mercy Medication Drop kiosk is located in the lobby at the main entrance of Mercy’s central campus.

Items dropped into the receptacle are stored securely under 24-hour surveillance until the container is full. The deposits are then shipped off-site for incineration. All medications, including schedule II-V controlled substances, can be disposed. Schedule I, controlled substances and other illegal or dangerous substances are not permitted.

“We are excited to offer this option for proper disposal so medications don’t accidentally get used by someone they weren’t intended for,” says Jessica Nesheim, PharmD, BCPS, Mercy emergency medicine clinical pharmacy specialist. “This is another way Mercy helps keep patients and others safe.”

Additionally, Mercy’s three outpatient pharmacies—located at Mercy West in Clive, Mercy North in Ankeny and the main lobby of central campus—all offer medication disposal for expired or unused non-controlled substances during business hours. Prescription and over-the-counter medications that can be turned in include:
- Pills, tablets, capsules
- Ointments, creams, lotions and powders
- Inhalers and nebulizer solutions
- Liquid medicines
- Solutions and suspensions

IMPROVING ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS MERCY HEALTH NETWORK

Mercy Health Network (MHN) is committed to providing high-quality, compassionate care to patients in the communities we serve. In recent years, many research studies and organizations have recognized the increased need for behavioral health care services. As a result, MHN ministries across the state are taking action.

This week, Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines filed a Certificate of Need application with the State of Iowa requesting approval to construct a 100-bed, freestanding inpatient behavioral health hospital in Polk County. The proposed facility would expand and improve access to essential behavioral health services for all members of the community. More information about this project will be shared in next week’s edition of the “Bulletin” newsletter.

Mercy-Des Moines will also welcome the inaugural class of its new ACGME-accredited Psychiatry Residency program in July 2018. During the next four years the program will expand to 16 residents. The new psychiatry residency program is designed to train high-quality physicians who will remain in Iowa after graduation to provide care.

Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo is expanding its emergency department by creating four additional holding rooms and a common area for stable adult behavioral health patients. Holding rooms in the new space will be slightly larger than a standard emergency room. The new environment is intended to provide a safe and secure area within the Covenant Medical Center Emergency Department to avoid or diminish escalating harmful behaviors among this population.

Mercy-North Iowa has begun construction on their behavioral services expansion to serve adults and children in need of inpatient behavioral health services. A community resource center will be located at the front of the area, with the goal of reducing the stigma associated with mental illness.

Mercy-Iowa City continues to expand access to its outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic and will add two additional providers in July. Mercy -Iowa City is committed to increasing access for patients by making it easier for them to be seen quickly in the outpatient setting. The outpatient clinic was opened less than two years ago to meet needs beyond the hospital’s inpatient Behavioral Health Unit.

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If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.