Central Iowans have additional options for urology care, with providers from Urology Center of Iowa now offering services at MercyOne Des Moines and West Des Moines Medical Centers, effective July 8. Urology Center of Iowa providers are available for in-house consults and procedures. For consult requests, call 515-400-3550.

Physicians with Urology Center of Iowa include: Dr. Kevin Birusingh, Dr. Brian Gallagher, Dr. Rick Glowacki, Dr. Mark Kellerman, Dr. McCabe Kenny, Dr. Stephanie Pothoven, Dr. Ryan Schulte and Dr. Trevor Wild.

The practice also has a new clinic located at 1350 Des Moines Street in Des Moines (in the same building as the East Village Urgent Care and Family Medicine Clinics). Clinic staff is currently being hired and oriented. Once that team is in place, the clinic phone and fax information will be shared.

With questions about the practice, please contact Sam Schooley, interim manager for the Urology Center of Iowa at MercyOne. The Iowa Clinic continues to provide urology services at both campuses; please continue to use existing processes as appropriate to request their services. Consult requests can be directed to 515-875-9800.

MercyOne opens first pediatric urgent care in metro

Last week, MercyOne Des Moines Pediatrics Urgent Care Clinic became the first after-hours urgent care just for kids in the Des Moines area.

“It is exciting to have MercyOne be the first health care system in Iowa to offer a dedicated urgent care for kids,” said Nivedita Krishnan, M.D., medical director of the new clinic. “No matter what time of year, kids have illnesses and emergencies after their regular providers are closed for the day. Whether your child is an existing MercyOne Pediatrics Care Clinic patient or is seen by other providers in the community, we’re here to help in the evenings and during weekends.”

Similar to MercyOne’s adult urgent care clinics, the new pediatric urgent care will see and treat non-emergent illnesses and injuries that include: allergies, asthma (minor attack), broken bones (minor, not bent), bronchiolitis, minor burns, colds, cough, minor cuts (no uncontrollable bleeding), dehydration, diarrhea, dizziness, earaches, fever, headache, minor head injuries (no loss of consciousness), insect bites, minor dog bites, nausea, pink eye, rash, sore throat, sprains/strains, stitches for minor cuts, minor stomach pain and urinary tract infection.

Dr. Krishnan and Allison Stewart, ARNP, are providing care at the clinic Monday–Friday, from 5-10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. No appointment is needed and patients are seen on a walk-in basis.

Located at 330 Laurel St., Suite 2100, in Des Moines, the new clinic shares space with MercyOne Des Moines Pediatrics Care Clinic.
American Heart Association award recognizes MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center

MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines® Target: Stroke Honor Roll Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center additionally received the association’s Target: Stroke™ Honor Roll award by meeting quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator (tPA).

Weight loss surgery informational class now online and in-person

To make it more convenient and accessible for patients interested in weight loss surgery to learn more about the MercyOne Des Moines Bariatric Surgery program and process, a free informational class is now available online, in addition to the in-person lecture.

MercyOne Des Moines Bariatric Surgery approaches weight loss by surrounding its patients with a medical and support team. Patients meet with physicians, dietitians and behaviorists, among other health care specialists, who help evaluate co-morbidities, such as hypertension, heart disease, pulmonary disease, sleep apnea and diabetes. Three minimally-invasive bariatric surgery procedures are offered – gastric bypass, gastric sleeve and revisional gastric banding – with all performed at MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center, an MBSAQIP Accredited – Comprehensive Center.

To learn more or get started with the process, patients can take our online class, call 515-358-9300, or email mercybariatricsurgery@mercydesmoines.org with questions or to register for an in-person class.

Perry, Panora clinics purchased by Dallas County Hospital

MercyOne Perry and Panora Family Medicine Clinics are operating under management of Dallas County Hospital, an affiliate of MercyOne, effective June 28. Dallas County Hospital has been part of the Perry community since 1954, serving patients from Dallas, Greene, Guthrie and Boone counties.

The transition should be seamless for patients, with both clinics remaining at their current locations with their current health care teams, and patients’ medical records retained at their current clinic locations. Physicians will continue to be employed by MercyOne.

“Dallas County Hospital is well known by members of the Perry and Panora communities,” said Mike Trachta, MercyOne vice president of Network Affiliates. “MercyOne has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Dallas County Hospital, and we are confident patients will continue to receive the high quality, personalized care they have come to expect.”

Both clinics will be renamed to DCH Family Medicine.
MercyOne Des Moines' General Surgery Residency Program is returning to full strength. The program was accredited in January by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for the 2018–2019 academic year. The ACGME decision reflects MercyOne’s commitment to strengthening surgeon involvement in the education of surgery residents and investing in simulation technology to hone the skills of future surgeons.

The MercyOne Des Moines General Surgery Residency Program offers 20 slots for five years of training of future general surgeons. In 2017, ACGME accreditation was formally withdrawn for residents in the M.D. track of the program. The result was the loss of 13 residents. Three D.O. residents continued their education under our accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). The program accepted four residents in 2018 and 2019 while participating in the AOA match.

The ACGME decision triggered a thorough review of the program by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Charles Keller and colleagues in Graduate Medical Education and Research (GMER). With a plan in place, Dr. Jan Franko was named program director, and he successfully recruited surgeons on medical staff to serve as faculty in a model that aligns with the future of GMER. Moving forward, new surgeons hired at MercyOne Des Moines will have faculty responsibilities included as part of their positions. Dr. Franko and his colleagues were also successful in adding additional lectures that featured physicians from other specialties and health systems. Significant upgrades were made in the facilities and technology used for educational presentations.

In addition to assisting with surgical cases, residents also needed more hands-on experience. A simulation lab was created and MercyOne Des Moines invested in mannequins and technology to improve skills in endoscopy, laparoscopic surgery and other surgical processes. Residents in General Surgery and other programs now have access to simulation activities in the lab.

Remarkably, even with markedly fewer residents, access to care was not significantly affected. Manager of Medical Education Deb Bagnall shared the main impact was the loss of 24-hour on-call coverage typically provided by residents. Creative scheduling and MercyOne Des Moines’ hiring of additional providers, particularly nurse practitioner and physician assistant positions, provided flexibility to help with triage, pain and trauma care. Some OR staff also stepped up to assist surgeons on appropriate cases.

In September 2019, the MercyOne Des Moines’ General Surgery Residency Program will begin accepting applications from potential residents for academic year 2020. Medical Education staff are expecting around 600 applications for four slots. Deb says that despite the initial upset, there is a positive outcome. “In the long run, as painful as it was to lose accreditation and go through that process, it really was the best thing to happen to that program,” she said. “It is back, and it is better than ever. I believe some of the work we are doing is best practice. A lot of time and care was invested in rebuilding the program.”

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Deb Bagnall, Manager, Medical Education