Radiation Oncology Services Move to BMC Cancer Center at Hillcrest Campus of BMC
Joins Hematology Oncology in Providing Cancer Care in One Location

Berkshire Health Systems has announced that its Radiation Oncology services will be opening in its new location at the BMC Cancer Center in late February or early March. The move brings both Radiation Oncology and Hematology Oncology into a single location at the Hillcrest Campus of Berkshire Medical Center and completes a nearly $6 million investment by BHS in Radiation Oncology. The BMC Cancer Center is located at 165 Tor Court in Pittsfield.

The new Radiation Oncology clinic at BMC Cancer Center has state-of-the-art technology, featuring two new linear accelerators. Both units, a Varian IX, and a Tomotherapy HD, are designed to provide highly precise treatment and targeting of the radiation therapy, and significantly reduce any impact on surrounding healthy tissue. The accelerators can obtain either CT or X-ray images to increase the precision and accuracy of the radiation beams. Utilizing a computerized treatment planning system to calculate treatment dose and coordinate targeting, beams can rotate around the body entering from numerous directions.

BMC has also installed a new CT Simulator for Radiation Oncology, which provides advanced treatment planning for each patient prior to receiving radiation therapy.

“Berkshire Health Systems has a long-standing commitment to providing the most advanced Radiation Oncology treatment therapies,” said Wade Gebara, MD, Medical Director of Radiation Oncology services at BMC. “This significant investment by the health system is designed to focus on our current needs and also the needs of the foreseen future for our community.”

Radiation Oncology services at BMC sees nearly 440 patients a year. A course of individual treatment is made up of between one to 44 treatments, all customized for the individual patient’s illness.

Dr. Wade Gebara, left, and his team of Radiation Oncology professionals will be relocating to the BMC Cancer Center at the Hillcrest Campus of BMC later this month. He is shown here with a few of the exceptional team members who make up the Radiation Oncology team.

The location of Radiation Oncology services at the BMC Cancer Center is another phase in the completion of the Center, which opened in the fall of 2013. The Cancer Center provides comprehensive cancer care services, including Hematology Oncology, Infusion Therapy, Radiation Oncology and a range of Integrative Care services, all under one roof, and set in a scenic location surrounded by the Berkshire hills and near Onota Lake.
Berkshire Health Systems is in the process of finalizing the development and beginning the implementation of the latest phase of its Employee Electronic Record System. This includes programs that will facilitate Time and Attendance and Staffing and Scheduling functions. Both systems are scheduled to be launched in the middle of 2016.

**Time and Attendance**

The Time and Attendance System will impact every employee in the organization, and will convert the current paper process to a full electronic system. This will provide numerous benefits, including:

- Elimination of time sheet data entry to record time worked. Employees will record their work time using either an electronic Badge Reader or a computer-based system accessible from employee work stations. The Badge Readers will be placed throughout the organization to provide easy access for employees in all areas.
- Real-time viewing of hours each employee has worked and visibility of time cards around the clock, which will eliminate the need for calls to the Staffing Office or the manager on a payroll Monday to process last minute requests.
- Employees will have the ability to request their own time corrections during the same pay week, including missed clocking entries or forgetting to include a special code, such as Charge, Call-In, etc.
- Reduction of paperwork, which not only helps our environment, but also is more cost efficient for all departments.
- Elimination of time sheets, time-off request books and time changes.
- Ease of tracking Earned Time requests electronically and the ability to see the status of whether they have been approved or are still pending.

**Staffing and Scheduling**

The Staffing and Scheduling System will provide a more efficient platform for managers and staff to manage the complexities of staffing departments across the organization, and also includes benefits, such as:

- Remote access for both staff and managers.
- Elimination of paperwork for recording and managing schedule changes.
- Real time information regarding skill mix and staff scheduled, present or absent.
- Less time making calls for shift coverage through the use of a new mobile application.
- Report accessibility to budget information in real time.
- Easy to see overages and shortages when making up schedules.
- Visibility to license or certification expiration for both employee and staff.

As both of these important systems move closer to implementation, staff will be provided training, and additional information will be made available through Scope, the BHS Employee Web Portal and other communication systems, so that the transition can be seamless.
Dr. Hickey Joins Barrington Family Medicine in Great Barrington

Berkshire Health Systems announces the appointment of John Paul Hickey, MD, MPH, to the Fairview Hospital medical staff and the physician staff of Barrington Family Medicine. Dr. Hickey is accepting new patients and joins Dr. Susan Thompson in the primary care practice located at 64 State Road in Great Barrington.

In addition to comprehensive primary care, Dr. Hickey brings expertise in HIV, Hepatitis C and addiction medicine.

Dr. Hickey is board-certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine and he completed his residency training at Saint Vincent’s Hospital and Medical Center in New York. He holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina’s Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

Dr. Hickey’s clinical background includes serving as Medical Director of the Wellness Center Clinic, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, staff physician and HIV Specialist at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York, Quality Assurance Administrator at the Floating Hospital in New York and an attending physician at Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York.

Dr. Hickey most recently served as Associate Director of HIV Medical Affairs for Gilead Sciences in Foster City, California, where his focus was in the area of infection diseases, specifically Gilead’s HIV and hepatitis C, including research developments, clinical trials and pipeline products. Dr. Hickey also served as Regional Director of Medical Affairs for Monogram Biosciences in San Francisco.

In addition to being licensed in both Massachusetts and New York, Dr. Hickey is an American Academy of HIV Expert.

For more information or to make an appointment with Dr. Hickey, call Barrington Family Medicine at 413-644-9933.

LEAP into WELLNESS!
and win Dinner & a Movie

Schedule an appointment today by calling (413) 447-3100 or email wellnessworks@bhs1.org https://www.bhswellnessworks.org

Drawing will be held on March 1st!

Complete your Wellness Visit by February 29th to qualify for the drawing
**Fairview’s Monster Dash Helps People’s Pantry**

The 2015 Fairview Monster Dash, held on Halloween, provided generous support for a local human service organization. A check for $1,500 was presented to Rosemary Carpenite of the People’s Pantry by Vicki Coons of Fairview’s Rehabilitation Department and Kathy Townsend of Fairview’s Employee Recreation Association.

The donation was made possible by proceeds of the Monster Dash, the annual 5k walk/run. Rosemary Carpenite, who also volunteers weekly at Fairview Hospital, was presented with the check to assist the People’s Pantry purchase items that are needed by the families that attend the weekly pantry.

The Monster Dash was started by Fairview’s Rehabilitation Department to celebrate Physical Therapy Month in October. The event, which celebrated its 11th year in 2015, is now a collaborative effort with the Fairview Hospital Employee Recreation Association and is supported by donations from local businesses including Catherine’s Chocolates, Taft Farms, Bartlett Orchards, Coffee Pause, Berkshire Running Center, Price Chopper and Big Y.

In 2015, the event drew a record number of participants and included a food drive along with a generous monetary donations and registration fees that contributed to make the gift possible.

“It is heartwarming to be able to support the increasing needs of those most vulnerable in our community,” said Vicki Coons, a physical therapy assistant at Fairview and founder of the event.

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**Young Professionals Group to Hold Meeting at BMC**

The Berkshire Young Professionals (BYP) will be at Berkshire Medical Center on February 23rd from 5 to 5:30 pm in Bishop Clapp Conference Room #1 to meet young professionals at BHS. Young professionals (anyone under the age of 40) at all BHS facilities are invited to attend this meet and greet. The BYP steering committee would like to discuss ways to better connect professionals with each other and to the community. Please stop by to introduce yourself and see what BYP has to offer.
Core measures are disease-specific process of care measures implemented by the Joint Commission and other agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid that measure how often hospitals provide patients with care that is appropriate and based on the latest clinical guidelines. The greatest positive impact on patient outcomes is achieved when hospitals demonstrate high reliability in delivering evidence-based care. BMC has participated in the Core Measure program since its beginning in 2002 through the auditing and reporting of heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, stroke, immunization, venous thromboembolism prevention, smoking cessation, emergency department throughput and surgical care. Hospital performance of these measures is used in various activities such as Joint Commission survey and accreditation, public reporting and can impact hospital reimbursement.

BMC’s list of Core Measures for 2016:

- **Emergency Department**
  - Median Time ED Arrival to ED Departure
  - Admit Decision Time to ED Departure Time

- **Hospital Outpatient Quality**
  - Heart Attack - Time to Fibrinolysis
  - Heart Attack - Fibrinolytic Therapy Received Within 30 Minutes
  - Heart Attack - Median Time to Transfer
  - Heart Attack - Aspirin at Arrival
  - Heart Attack - Median Time to ECG
  - Time ED Arrival to ED Departure
  - Median Time Door to Diagnostic Evaluation by a Qualified Professional
  - Median Time to Pain Management for Long Bone Fracture
  - Head CT/MRI Results for Stroke Patients within 45 Minutes of Arrival

- **Immunization**
  - Influenza Immunization

- **Stroke**
  - Thrombolytic Therapy

- **Venous Thromboembolism**
  - VTE Warfarin Therapy Discharge Instructions
  - Hospital Acquired Potentially-Preventable VTE

- **Perinatal Care**
  - Elective Delivery
  - Cesarean Birth
  - Antenatal Steroids
  - Health Care-Associated Bloodstream Infections in Newborns
  - Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding

BMC has been recognized as a 2015 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by the Joint Commission for attaining and sustaining excellence in performance for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, stroke, and venous thromboembolism. To be a Top Performer, a hospital must achieve cumulative performance of 95% or above across all measures and achieve performance of 95% or above on each and every measure.
“Let’s try Meditation”

Sundays: March 6th, 13th & 20th
11:30 am-Noon & 12:15 pm-2:45 pm
BMC Private Dining Rooms with
Angela Wilson, Body/Mind Meditation Instructor
No pre-registration needed

Did you know that slowing down mid-day can drop your blood pressure, improve your memory and increase your attention to details? Take pause and enjoy a quiet moment for yourself.

Acupuncture for Stress & Relaxation

The Wellness Department is teaming up with Naomi Alson & Regina Touhey Serkin of the Pittsfield Community Acupuncture to bring BHS Staff Members acupuncture treatments in a group setting to help reduce stress, and improve general well-being.

Acupuncture is an essential part of Traditional Oriental Medicine, and is based on the idea that if energy is flowing in a balanced, harmonious way there will be no pain or dysfunction. Acupuncture, along with diet and lifestyle changes, can help reestablish this balance within your body.

This group acupuncture experience will be in a large room with other participants. Fine needles are placed on your body or on your ear. You stay fully clothed for this treatment. After insertion you rest with the needles for up to 45 minutes.

Acupuncture is safe; using single use, disposable, sterile needles, about the size of one strand of hair.

Often patients report no feeling of the needle going in at all. Acupuncture helps to create a free flow of energy and a new state of health.

Thursdays
2/11, 3/10 & 3/24
5:30-6:30 pm
The Cancer Center HEAL Room,
Hillcrest Campus of BMC
$10 per person
(Cash or check to BHS)

Cranwell Spa Day
for BHS Employees & Spouses: February 17th

The Spa at Cranwell is again offering BHS Employees and their spouses a special day to use their beautiful facilities. The Spa features a 60 ft. heated indoor pool, a complete fitness center, saunas, steam rooms and therapeutic whirlpool baths.

Pre-registration required.
Beginners Welcome! Join JoAnna Ezinga, MS, PT, and Triathlon Coach for this great winter activity and have fun while exercising. Four dates to choose from:

- Kennedy Park, Lenox: Saturday, February 27, 10 am - Noon
- Pine Cobble Trail, Williamstown: Sunday, March 13, Noon - 2 pm
- Boulders Trail, Dalton: Saturday, March 26, 10 am - Noon

Pre-register on https://www.bhshealthsystems.org website. For more information contact Carol Nixon 413-445-9350 or cnixon@bhs1.org.

Based on the book by Tom Rath, this presentation will include ideas and techniques for energizing your work and life. Learn about the three keys:

**ENERGY • INTERACTION • MEANING**

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<tr>
<th>Thursday, 2/18</th>
<th>Noon</th>
<th>North Adams Campus of BMC, Small Dining Room</th>
<th>Susan Gagnon, LICSW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 2/22</td>
<td>11:30 am &amp; 12:15 pm</td>
<td>BMC, PDR “D”</td>
<td>Mark Kenyon, LMFT, LADC-1, CEAP</td>
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<td>Monday, 2/29</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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Love Your Heart Day

More than 150 employees participated in the Love Your Heart event at BMC on Friday, February 5th. Joelle Butterfield (left) and Kati Scheurer, X-ray Technologists in the Radiology department, dressed up in red for the occasion.

BHS Job Opportunities

To view job descriptions and/or apply for a position at Berkshire Medical Center, Fairview Hospital or BVNA & Hospice, please visit our website at: www.berkshirehealthsystems.org and click on Employment.

Scope

Please direct any comments, questions or suggestions for Scope to Development and Community Relations at 447-2060.

Editor: Michael Leary
Writers: Michael Leary, Lauren Smith, and guest columnists
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Thanks and Recognition

“During my labor, delivery and after care the nursing staff on the mother baby unit was fantastic. They listened to me, coached me, and helped me through a difficult labor and delivery. I cannot thank them enough for how caring they were through it all.”
– Comment from a BMC Mother Baby Unit patient

“I wish I had thought to get names of everyone. I was very pleased with everyone assigned to me. By the way, the soups were excellent. So was the kitchen staff.”
– Comment from a BMC Surgical Services patient

“All the nurses who cared for me were amazing, compassionate and professional.”
– Comment from a BMC 3 South patient

“I recently moved to the Berkshires and this was a new facility for me. Everyone I encountered, from doctors and staff to the receptionists, made me feel welcome.”
– Comment from a BMC Radiation Oncology patient

“I couldn’t ask for anything better. What a great staff.”
– Comment from a BMC Women’s Imaging Center patient

“This was my first experience being in the hospital and the experience was very positive. My needs were well met and all staff was very kind.”
– Comment from a BMC Surgical Services patient

Chaplain’s Corner: A Year of Promise  By Sister Colette Hanlon, SC, BMC Chaplain

The poet Rilke invites us to think about our attitude when he wrote, “And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.” He did not promise that everything would be rosy, affirming and according to our plans. He does suggest that with the right attitude we can embrace a variety of new experiences.

Ponder for a bit what you experienced in 2015 that was new, challenging and unexpected. Some events were probably uplifting, others painful. People entered all of our lives whom we had never met before, and some of whom we may never see again. New babies were born and relationships were formed. Yet for many, if not everyone, the experience of letting go of someone through death, moving, job changes, or human differences was also part of our lives.

But now here is a new opportunity to discover mercy, goodness, generosity, forgiveness. Each moment can be a time of opportunity and promise – a time of hope and expectation. May we be open to each moment for the rest of this year.

In Memoriam

• Paula Johnson, a Registered Nurse at Berkshire Medical Center and later for HospiceCare in the Berkshires, died on October 22, 2015 at the age of 73. She worked for seven years in the Intensive Care Unit and Pulmonary at BMC, and for 19 years at HospiceCare, retiring in 2013.

• Vickey Boucher, a surgical technician at BMC, died on January 23rd at the age of 53. She retired in 1999.

• June L. Francoeur, who worked in billing and coding for Berkshire Health Systems, died on January 26th at the age of 65.

• Gloria J. Gavenas, a Registered Nurse at the former Pittsfield General Hospital, now BMC, died on January 27th at the age of 81.

• Doris “Dodi” Martin, a Registered Nurse at the former North Adams Regional Hospital and in the BMC Emergency Department, died on January 27th at the age of 81.

• Maria H. Paralta, who worked in the Laundry Departments at the former St. Luke’s Hospital and later at BMC, died on January 28th at the age of 94. She retired in 1984 after 25 years of service.

• Marilyn A. Brigley, a bookkeeper for Berkshire Health Systems and the Berkshire VNA, died on January 29th at the age of 82. She retired in 2002 after 28 years of service.

• Joan H. Crosier, a Licensed Practical Nurse at the former North Adams Regional Hospital, now the North Adams Campus of BMC, died on February 1st at the age of 82.

The staff of Berkshire Health Systems offers its deepest condolences to their friends and family.