Innovations at Inspira’s medical centers advance care in our communities

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

Although you might not think about it every day, your community hospital is always here for you. Whether it’s the arrival of a new baby or a medical emergency, thousands of people rely on Inspira Health Network’s medical centers to provide health services for their families.

I take that responsibility very seriously. It’s our goal to continually enhance our services and offer new programs so that our neighbors don’t need to leave our community to receive great care. I’m proud that we regularly celebrate the opening of new services at Inspira’s medical centers, but you may not be aware until you need them. I’d like to share some of our recent advancements that are here for you.

Diabetes is a growing epidemic in our communities and when people with diabetes suffer with wounds, they can be very difficult to heal. Now Inspira Medical Center Woodbury’s Wound Care program has added two state-of-the-art hyperbaric oxygen therapy chambers to treat chronic wounds.

During the procedure, patients relax in a comfortable, spacious chamber pressurized with pure oxygen that promotes healing. By helping the body heal chronic wounds, hyperbaric therapy can reduce the risk of serious infections and in some cases avoid the need for amputation. We’ve been offering this service at Inspira Medical Center Elmer for more than three years and we’re proud to now bring it to Woodbury and help more diabetic patients lead healthier lives.

Another procedure that improves our patients’ quality of life is joint replacement surgery. To give our joint replacement patients at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury an even better experience, we recently remodeled a floor specifically for them. Now our patients can receive quality care from a staff that is dedicated to meeting their specific needs, in an orthopedics-focused inpatient unit.

The unit offers a calming environment with all private rooms and physical therapy services right on the floor so that patients can start their rehabilitation quickly and get back to their lives. For our patients’ families, we have also renovated our surgical waiting areas to provide a more comforting experience.

Inspira also offers a nationally-recognized joint replacement program at Inspira Medical Center Elmer. In fact, Elmer was one of a small number of hospitals nationwide to receive a Women’s Choice Award as one of America’s Best Orthopedic Hospitals for providing exceptional patient care and treatment. Patients there have access to comprehensive education sessions about the surgery to relieve their anxieties and make the experience more comfortable. Our doctors, nurses and therapists all participate to give our patients a full understanding of the surgery and recovery process so they know what to expect and how to get back to their lives quickly.

This specialized care helps improve the quality of life for adults in our community, but many of our children and teens need support to lead better lives, too. That’s why we have recently expanded our child partial hospitalization behavioral health program to Inspira Medical Center Elmer. A Step Ahead offers children and teens support through group, individual and family counseling that helps them improve their emotional and behavioral well-being. Our participants learn a variety of coping skills that can help them to be successful at home and school, and ultimately lead happier lives.

Improving the lives of our neighbors is a goal that everyone at Inspira shares, and introducing advanced technology is one way that we help our physicians and staff offer quality care. A great example of this is the advanced technology we’re using to train our residents and physicians in the new Jane and Peter Galetto Simulation Center in Vineland. Here our clinical staff can enhance their skills using high-tech patient simulators. There are a variety of models that replicate real clinical scenarios including an adult male, a child, an infant and an adult female capable of a simulated birth. This new center enhances the education experience for our medical students by providing realistic training in a risk-free environment.

In addition to high-tech training, we’re also offering our patients leading-edge diagnostics and treatments at Inspira Medical Center Vineland. Our new high resolution interventional radiology lab offers advanced diagnostic studies and treatments for patients with cancer and vascular conditions, and is the only hospital-based facility of its kind in Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Camden counties.

Using this equipment, our physicians are making more accurate diagnoses and achieving better outcomes with greater patient safety and fewer complications. In fact, this new technology can provide enhanced images while reducing exposure to radiation by up to 80 percent.

We’re also bringing new technologies to Gloucester County with the introduction of a state-of-the-art radiation therapy center at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury this year. Having access to advanced technology to combat cancer locally means that your loved ones won’t have to travel to receive the cancer care they need.

These are just a few examples of how new technologies and programs at Inspira are advancing health care here in South Jersey. I believe they demonstrate our dedication to providing the best possible care for you and your family. For more information, please visit our website at InspiraHealthNetwork.org.