

REGIONAL OPERATIONS NEWS

Improving Health, Enriching Life



message from the REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Introduction

New Medical Directors



Steven Weiser, MD, has accepted the position of Medical Director of Inpatient Services, a new division at Altru Health System. Dr. Weiser will oversee physician practices in the Emergency Outpatient Department and Urgent Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Critical Care, Pulmonology and Hospitalists.

Dr. Weiser earned his medical degree from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba and completed his Primary Care residency at the University of McGill in Montréal, Québec. He is board-certified in Family Medicine and has worked in Altru's Department of Emergency Medicine for nearly 18 years.



Jeremy Gardner, MD, has accepted the position of Medical Director of Musculoskeletal Services. In this position, his key responsibilities include oversight of physician practices in Orthopedics, Sports Medicine, Podiatry, Chiropractic, Radiology, Neurology, Occupational Medicine and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Gardner earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa. He completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Gardner specializes in Orthopedic Surgery, and is certified to perform total hip and total knee replacements with the Mako Robotic-Arm.

Fall Regional Provider Conference was held Thursday, November 2, 2017 with attendance from the region, live and via teleconference. Topic: Trauma Orthopedic Update, presented by Drs. Hans Joseph and Daniel Hesse, Orthopedic Traumatologist's with Altru Health System.

New Altru Regional Physician



Amber Wibbels, DPM, has joined the podiatry team at Altru Health System seeing patients at Altru Clinics in Roseau, Warroad and Greenbush, MN. She is board qualified in foot, reconstructive rear foot and ankle surgery.

Dr. Wibbels, originally from Roseau, MN, earned her medical degree from Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa. She completed her Podiatric Medicine and Surgery residency at Pinnacle Health Hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Reminder

Altru Health System's Trauma Service offers the Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC) to our region. To schedule a course contact: Leigh LaRoque, RN, BSN Trauma Program Coordinator at 701.780.5337 phone or email llaroque@altru.org. A recent course was presented on October 27, 2017 at Nelson County Health System Hospital, in McVile, ND. A course is scheduled for November 29, 2017 at Cavalier County Memorial Hospital in Langdon, ND.



William G. McKinnon, MD, FACEP
*Medical Director of Regional Operations
Altru Health System*

This newsletter features Altru Advanced Orthopedics Trauma Team and Mako Robotic Arm System and updates on new outreach and telemedicine sites and providers.

ONE CALL CENTER (855.425.8781)

For Inpatient or Emergency Transfers

Regional Transfer Coordinators: Darcy Thompson, RN, BSN, Becky Robertson, RN,
Melinda Carlson, RN; Diedra Goos, RN

REGIONAL OUTPATIENT REFERRAL (877.247.7745)

Regional Referral Coordinator: Jill Bryant, RN



ALTRU ADVANCED ORTHOPEDICS TRAUMA TEAM AND MAKO ROBOTIC ARM SYSTEM

Trauma Team at Altru Advanced Orthopedics



Altru Advanced Orthopedics has had the privilege of providing adult and pediatric trauma services for the past year to the patients of our community and region 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

Dr. Daniel Hesse joined our team after completing his Orthopedic Surgery Trauma Fellowship at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Hans Joseph joined the Advanced Orthopedics Team after completing his Orthopedic Trauma Fellowship at WellSpan York Hospital in York, Pennsylvania. Dr. Hesse and Dr. Joseph treat all orthopedic injuries including polytrauma, upper and lower extremity fractures, intra-articular fractures, periprosthetic fractures, pelvis and acetabular fractures, pediatric fractures, and fracture malunion/nonunion.

Altru Advanced Orthopedics Trauma Team also includes Dave Sundberg, NP and Bethany Knox, PA-C. Both Dave and Bethany work closely with Dr. Joseph and Dr. Hesse to provide your patients with complete care in the clinic, emergency room, and/or hospital. Additionally, the team offers follow-up visits via telemedicine keeping patients close to home.

The Trauma Team at Altru Advanced Orthopedics looks forward to caring for your patients. Whether an individual arrives through our emergency department or visits our clinic, our team will provide your patients with personalized treatment to return them back to their daily living.

Should you have any questions regarding the services provided through Altru Advanced Orthopedics, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 701.732.7700.



Daniel Hesse, MD



Hans Joseph, DO



Dave Sundberg, NP



Bethany Knox, PA-C



Darin Leetun, MD



Jeremy Gardner, MD



Rhonda Enger, RN, BSN, Manager, Altru Advanced Orthopedics

Altru Advanced Orthopedics offers Mako™ Robotic Arm System

At Altru Advanced Orthopedics, we are committed to advancing our treatments and procedures to ensure that patients in our region have access to world-class orthopedic care, close to home. We currently offer total knee, partial knee and total hip replacements with the Mako™ Robotic Arm. Altru Advanced Orthopedics is the first in the state of North Dakota to offer these procedures with the Mako.

The Mako™ system is a surgeon-controlled robotic arm that enables accurate alignment and placement of implants. Accuracy is key in planning and performing total knee, partial knee and total hip replacements. For the best outcome, surgeons need to align and position the implants just right. The Mako system enables us to personalize the procedure and achieve optimal results at a level of accuracy and reproducibility previously unattainable with conventional instrumentation.

The Mako System features a patient-specific visualization system and proprietary tactile robotic arm technology that is integrated with intelligent surgical instruments. It assists surgeons in pre-planning and in treating each patient uniquely and with a consistently reproducible procedure.

Mako Partial Knee Replacement is a treatment option for adults living with early to mid-stage osteoarthritis that has not yet progressed to all three compartments of the knee. It is less invasive than traditional total knee surgery. The total-knee option is a better fit for those with later stage osteoarthritis.

During Mako Total Hip Replacement surgery, the system provides visualization of the joint and biomechanical data to guide the bone preparation and implant positioning to match the pre-surgical plan. The Mako procedure offers the confidence of more accurate cup placement and accurate leg length restoration.

We are proud to be the first in the state to offer this innovative technology, and we look forward to helping your patients get back to their active lives with less pain, fewer complications and more natural feeling joints.

If you have a patient that may be a candidate for replacement with the Mako™ robotic arm, please consider a referral to Dr. Darin Leetun or Dr. Jeremy Gardner for an assessment. We will work with each patient to ensure that they receive the treatment that is best for them, whether with the Mako or another advanced treatment option.

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Recent changes in the region include:

In Sympathy

Untimely loss of Dr. Joshua Omotunde, Unity Medical Center, Grafton, ND, who passed away August 7, 2017.

Administrative Announcement's 2017

- » Ashley Rivera, CEO, CFO, Kittson Memorial Healthcare, Hallock, MN
- » Brandon Mickelson, CEO, First Care Health Center, Park River, ND
- » Lisa LeTexier, CEO, Pembina County Memorial Hospital, Cavalier, ND
- » Jeni Schwenzfeier, CEO, Pembina County Memorial Hospital, Cavalier, ND

New Advanced Practice Providers

- » Kimberly Ford, FNP, Pembina County Memorial Hospital and CliniCare, Cavalier, ND

New Regional Outreach Providers and Sites

- » Yassar Almanaseer, MD, Interventional Cardiology - Altru Clinic I Devils Lake and Pembina County Memorial Hospital, Cavalier, ND
- » Nkechinyere Ijioma, MD, Interventional Cardiology - Altru Clinic I Thief River Falls, MN and North Valley Health Center, Warren, MN

New Telemedicine Providers

- » Diabetes/Internal Medicine/Medical Weight Loss - Ann Mason, FNP
- » Geriatric Medicine/Internal Medicine, Altru Clinic I Crookston - David Frugone, MD
- » Oncology - Bethann Nuelle, NP
- » Pediatrics - Joe Shelton, MD
- » Prenatal Education - Jenny Senti, RN, CNS
- » Psychiatry - Anita Bansal, MD
- » Psychiatry - Chenelle Joseph, MD
- » Urology - Cordell Davis, MD

New Telemedicine Specialties

- » Breast Center: Altru Clinic I Devils Lake
- » Smoking Cessation: Telemed visits with a certified provider to educate and promote success in this area.
- » MyHealth Video Visits: Direct connections from provider to patient's mobile device are in trial mode with weight loss health and wellness coaches. These visits will be expanded to other services next year.
- » TelePharmacy Visits for CHF Patients: Altru's Telepharmacists connect to CHF patients in their home or at the GF cardiology clinic and complete a medication review and teaching. These visits were found to be extremely successful during a grant period, finding 48% medication error rate in patients seen. Because of that success, telepharmacists and other resources are continuing their support of this patient service.
- » Video Visits for patients with COPD: Our goal is to improve the patient's health, reduce readmissions, and lower medical costs for the patient, health system and payer source. Upon discharge, patients will receive in-home monitors or tablets, oximeters and blood pressure monitors. Disease management educators will monitor vitals daily or weekly, depending on the equipment received. Within 24 hours of discharge patients will be contacted using the tablets, in-home monitors, or phone. Within 48 hours of discharge, an in-home visit or video visit will be conducted. One week after discharge, disease management educators will conduct an in-home visit using iPads to access the patient's EMR or a video visit for rural patients. For 30 days, patients will receive weekly contacts to monitor the condition and provide education on the disease. The patients with co-morbidities may receive consults with pharmacists and dietitians. Our goal is to reduce readmissions from 26.1% to 24% by May 2018. This service is supported under a Cardinal Health Grant for a 1 year period.
- » Prenatal Education - Jenny Senti, RN, CNS is connecting via telemedicine with OB patients in the region for prenatal education. Expectant moms receive the same service as an in-person visit including print resources, Epic documentation of vitals/medication review.

Telemedicine Statistics

- » E-Visits - 477 this year for first 9 months (since started). Average 53/month.
- » Telemedicine Visits - projected end of year total for 2017 - 7,212 compared to 5,322 visits in 2016 and 3,497 visits in 2015.
- » My Health Video Visits - 3 (went live in August with weight management)



P.O. Box 6002
Grand Forks, ND
58206-6002

VALUES

Our Patients

Meeting the needs and expectations of our patients is our highest priority.

Our Care

We provide quality care that is demonstrated to achieve the best results for patients.

Our Team

We work as a team and treat each other with honesty, loyalty and respect.

Our Communities

We are committed to improving the health of our communities.

PROMISE

Every moment of every day, we promise to provide an excellent health care experience. We will be respectful, compassionate and thorough. We know your family and friends are an important part of your care; we will involve them as you wish and extend the same promise of excellence to them.

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