Bristol Hospital expands its urgent care footprint

Keeping up the pace

With the continued onslaught of urgent care centers opening, the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group has expanded its urgent care footprint with a new center and additional providers.

“We’re expanding our services and providing high-quality, low-cost care for non-critical medical needs and injuries,” said Joseph Cherneskie, MD, medical director of the Med-Help Urgent Care in Bristol and the Plainville Urgent Center. “We always see our patients in a timely manner and Med-Help is one of the few urgent care centers that always has two providers available.”

The Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group has two urgent care centers including the Med-Help Urgent Care located on 539 Farmington Ave in Bristol, and the Plainville Urgent Care Center located on 36 Whiting Street, which opened last spring.

“We found there was a need for additional urgent care services in Plainville so we opened this great new facility,” Dr. Cherneskie said. “The Plainville Urgent Care Center shares the space with one of our primary care practices in a very convenient location.”

Common ailments seen at the Bristol Hospital urgent care centers include sprains, lacerations, strain, splinter removal as well as the treatment of colds, flu, sore throat and urinary tract infections. Both Med-Help and the Plainville Urgent Care Center are open 365 days a year and no appointment is ever needed.

According to the American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine, the growth and development of Urgent Care Medicine should be of no surprise to anyone. Fueled by frustration over long waits in the emergency room and a reduction in available primary care appointments, a new growth spurt for the urgent care industry began in the mid-1990s and continues today.

Since 2008, the number of facilities has increased from 8,000 to 9,300. The public’s desire for immediate access to medical care has been the driving force behind this monumental growth.

The AAUCM also said that urgent care does not replace a patient’s primary care physician. Urgent care centers are an option when someone’s regular physician is on vacation or unable to offer a timely appointment. Or, when illness strikes outside of regular office hours, urgent care offers an alternative to a hospital emergency room.

Dr. Cherneskie said that some of the advantages of the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group’s urgent care centers is the pipeline that patients have to a wide range of specialists as well as the their direct access to their hospital electronic medical record. Additionally, x-ray services are available at both sites and most major insurances—including Medicare and Medicaid—are accepted.

— Courtesy of Bristol Hospital

Much to celebrate

Bristol Hospital’s Multi-Specialty Group doubles its staff

BRISTOL — There’s much to celebrate for the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group on Doctor’s Day 2017.

Since 2012, the Multi-Specialty Group has doubled its number of medical staff members which includes more than 95 physicians, surgeons, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses. The Multi-Specialty Group consists of Bristol Hospital’s community-based specialty practices which bring together a team of health care professionals who deliver a range of health services throughout Greater Bristol.

“It’s really an exciting time for our group,” said Edward Henry, MHA, executive director of the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group. “We always strive to improve the access to care and be seen as the best provider of high-quality, low-cost care.”

One of Henry’s primary duties is the recruitment of new providers which is a challenging task in a very competitive field. The most recent additions to the Multi-Specialty Group are providers in general surgery, orthopedics, geriatrics, pain management, internal medicine and sleep medicine.

“Community need drives our recruitment efforts,” Henry said. “Primary care physicians are in very high demand while newly-added specialties were missing from Greater Bristol for many years.”

Since 2010, Bristol Hospital has been expanding into its secondary market by opening practices in Burlington, Southington and Wolcott. Last spring, the Plainville Primary Care and Urgent Care Center opened on 36 Whiting Street in Plainville. Henry also is an integral part of the planning for the new ambulatory care center which is part of the downtown Centre Square project in Bristol.

Vijay Joshi, MD, is president of the medical staff for the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group, and said that all the group’s primary care practices are recognized by the Patient Centered Medical Home program. Most primary care doctors and specialists are recognized by Bridges to Excellence program for diabetes and cardiac care. The patient-centered medical home is a team-based health care delivery model led by a health care provider that is intended to provide comprehensive and continuous medical care to patients with the goal of obtaining maximized health outcomes.

“This is a prestigious certification that shows we are using evidenced-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly-coordinated care and long-term participative relationships,” Dr. Joshi said.

There continues to be significant market growth in orthopedics, weight loss surgery, and breast health and surgery which is based in the hospital’s Beeckerley Center for Breast Health and Wellness and is led by breast surgeon Sai Varanasi, MD, FACS. The Bristol Hospital Weight Loss Surgery program also is very successful under the direction of Medical Director Makram Gedeon, MD, FACS, FASMBS.

“We have three board-certified bariatric surgeons who are dedicated to providing the best weight loss outcomes for their patients,” Henry said.

Additionally, the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group has a growing team of orthopedic surgeons and providers who practice in the hospital’s Center for Orthopedic and Spine Health. Led by orthopedic surgeon David Rubins, MD, FAAOS, the program includes specialists in joint replacement, spine surgery, sports medicine, physiatry and rehabilitation, pain management, trauma, hand and fracture care.

All of the practices of the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group are accepting new patients. For more information, please visit www.bristolhospital.org.

— Courtesy of Bristol Hospital