

# PRINCETON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN THE KNOW

## BREATHING NEW LIFE

Respiratory Therapy  
is Elevating Patient  
Care at PCH

New Cancer Specialists  
and Facilities

Imaging Services  
Extend to McDowell  
and Wyoming  
Counties

**OCT  
2024**

 **WVU Medicine**

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### FEATURE STORY

# BREATHE NEW LIFE

RESPIRATORY THERAPY IS ELEVATING





# THING LIFE

**ELEVATING PATIENT CARE AT PCH**

In the realm of patient care, securing the airway is the first and most critical step. When a patient cannot breathe, all other interventions become secondary. This principle underscores the vital role of respiratory therapy (RT) in every aspect of hospital care.

At PCH, the RT team has been at the forefront of innovation and excellence. By adopting cutting-edge technology and refining clinical protocols, PCH's respiratory therapists are keeping patients in the region, enhancing patient outcomes, saving lives, and transforming the standard of care across the region.



## LEADING WITH PROTOCOLS: A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

The foundation of PCH's respiratory therapy success lies in the rigorous, evidence-based protocols developed by its RT team. These protocols ensure that every patient receives consistent, high-quality care, reducing the risk of complications and optimizing the use of respiratory therapy resources.

A standout feature of PCH's innovative ventilator protocols is the strategic use of inverse ratio ventilation. This technique, where the inhalation phase is longer than exhalation, has proven particularly effective in delivering oxygen to critically ill patients and promoting recovery.

**PCH's protocols have garnered national and international recognition, with hospitals as close as Charleston and Roanoke, and as far as Hawaii and Saudi Arabia adopting these practices.**

The impact is clear: PCH has seen a 92.8% reduction in ventilator-related complications over the past two years, and in 2023, PCH reported zero cases of ventilator-associated pneumonia.

## LEADING WITH INNOVATION AND PUSHING BOUNDARIES

In 2022, PCH achieved a milestone by nearly eliminating the need to transfer pediatric patients out of the region for respiratory issues, thanks again to evidence-based protocols and dedication to providing the most up-to-date technology like syringe pumps and Airvo high-flow devices. This ensures that young patients receive the care they need close to home, reducing stress for both patients and their families.

In another pioneering approach, RTs at PCH exclusively manage ventilators, therapy and equipment, allowing physicians to focus on their specialties while RTs provide real-time respiratory care. This close collaboration ensures immediate adjustments to treatment plans, reducing delays and optimizing results.





Unlike many other hospitals, here at PCH it's the RTs who insert arterial catheters in ventilated patients to collect blood for blood gas tests and blood pressure medication management.

Commitment to the latest technology allows PCH to address a broader range of respiratory conditions with precision and efficiency. A recently acquired fleet of new Hamilton ventilators can switch between two types of respiratory support and support patients who have fluctuating conditions. New Volara devices simultaneously clear lungs, provide ventilation and deliver medication, and can provide relief for patients who experience conditions such as COPD that make clearing secretions difficult.

PCH's model and commitment to innovation has led to tangible results: Patients spend less time on mechanical ventilation, fewer days in the ICU, experience shorter hospital stays, and benefit from faster recoveries.

PCH's respiratory therapy department is a leader in patient care, driven by innovation, expertise, and a



## RECOGNIZING RESPIRATORY HEROES: THE PHIL AWARD® LAUNCHES AT PCH

Respiratory therapists are integral to patient care, working behind the scenes to provide life-saving treatments and support. Their expertise is essential in improving patients experience and outcomes.

Now PCH is participating in a national award program dedicated to honoring outstanding respiratory therapists. The PHIL Award® was established in 2006 in memory of Philip C. Lamka, who passed away from Interstitial Lung Disease. Since then, nearly 200 hospitals across the country have presented this prestigious award to exceptional respiratory therapists who go above and beyond in their care.

The award recipient will be honored during a ceremony in October as part of Respiratory Therapy Week. In addition to national recognition, the winner will receive the Appreciation sculpture, a framed certificate, and The PHIL Award® lapel pin, symbolizing their excellence in respiratory care.



## REST EASY, BREATHE BETTER: PCH TO LAUNCH SLEEP AND PULMONARY CENTER THIS FALL

After extensive planning and preparation, PCH is set to open its state-of-the-art Sleep and Pulmonary Center this fall. The clinic will be co-located with PCH's existing sleep lab on the second floor, providing a centralized location for advanced sleep medicine and pulmonary care.

This new clinic will offer specialized treatment for a wide range of sleep disorders, including sleep apnea, narcolepsy, sleep paralysis, and restless leg syndrome. In addition to diagnosis and treatment, the clinic will offer custom fitting and ongoing management of CPAP machines and supplies. Patients will have the convenience of reviewing CPAP reports and making necessary adjustments to their equipment on-site, ensuring optimal outcomes and comfort.

Beyond sleep medicine, the clinic will also provide expert care for pulmonary conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and other respiratory challenges. The integration of sleep and pulmonary services within the clinic allows for a comprehensive approach to patient care, addressing complex health needs in one convenient location.

The clinic will be led by Mary Lewis, an advanced nurse practitioner with experience in both sleep medicine and pulmonary care.

relentless commitment to excellence. From cutting-edge equipment and comprehensive training to collaborative approaches and stringent safety protocols, the RT team is transforming the landscape of respiratory care.

As PCH continues to expand its services and embrace new technologies, it remains at the forefront of respiratory therapy, ensuring that every patient receives the highest standard of care. ■







*Joshua Testerman RRT, RRT-ACCS, was chosen as the Society of Mechanical Ventilation Member of the Month earlier this year. Josh is a clinical specialist and supervisor of respiratory care specializing in training and education for respiratory therapy staff.*







## Building Hope: New Specialists, Facilities, and Cutting-Edge Equipment Set the Stage for Groundbreaking Cancer Care

Progress continues in the development of a comprehensive cancer center at PCH with the addition of new specialists, facilities and equipment.

### August

On August 26, the new Infusion Center on the second floor of PCH began seeing its first patients. The new center features 14 treatment rooms and 27 advanced infusion chairs offering heat and massage. While part of the cancer center, the infusion center will offer treatments for a variety of conditions including Alzheimer's, Crohn's Disease, and multiple sclerosis. The new infusion center is located closer to the oncology clinic, making it easier for patients to complete lab work, physician visits, and treatments in less time.

Also in August, PCH announced that Stantec had been selected as the architect and Swope as the construction manager for the new cancer center. Groundbreaking on the new 24,000 square foot hospital extension is expected in Spring 2025.

### July

In July, PCH welcomed Dr. Joseph Baisden, a radiation oncologist, to the team. Throughout his career, Dr. Baisden has been recognized for his contributions to cancer research and treatment. His numerous awards include the Radiological Society of North America Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award and the Constable/Agarwal Award for Resident Research.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Baisden. He has a long history of providing excellent care to the people of this region," PCH President and CEO Karen Bowling said. "Dr. Baisden is the first of several key positions we will announce as we move toward opening our new comprehensive cancer center in Princeton in 2027."

Dr. Baisden offers radiation services on the Bluefield campus, where a new \$3.5 million linear accelerator radiation treatment device is scheduled to be installed in late 2024.



## May

On May 22, officials from West Virginia University, WVU Medicine, the WVU Medicine Cancer Institute and PCH gathered with local leaders, patients, staff and community members to officially cut the ribbon on the new Hematology/Oncology Clinic. The clinic is the first phase of the new, two-story comprehensive cancer center to be built on the campus of WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital.

The new Hematology/Oncology Clinic features a private wig room with current styles and other supplies for patients, including mastectomy supplies, hats, and head coverings. The space includes a private consultation room for patient

and providers, a conference room for educational and team meetings, 14 exam rooms, and two special procedure rooms.

PCH has been an accredited cancer center through the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer for over 20 years. Staff includes oncologists, radiation oncologists, advanced practice nurses, nurse navigators, oncology-certified nurses, chemotherapy/immunotherapy-trained staff, along with additionally trained licensed professional nurses, medical assistants, registration specialists, phlebotomy staff, and chemotherapy-trained pharmacists. PCH offers clinical trials on-site in collaboration with WVU Cancer Institute ■





# Dr. Ray Harron Returns to PCH

PCH is pleased to welcome back Ray Harron, D.O., this time as a general surgeon. Dr. Harron began seeing patients at Mercer Medical Group General Surgery in Princeton in August, joining Dr. David Mullins, Dr. Eric Hopkins and Dr. Gene Duremdes in that practice.

Dr. Harron spent a portion of his third and fourth years of medical school training with Drs. Mullins, Hopkins and Duremdes, shadowing them in their office and assisting in surgery at PCH as a medical student.

“I decided to come back largely due to my excellent experience with the surgeons as well as the overall atmosphere and ‘family’ dynamic at PCH,” Dr. Harron says. “I also grew up in Roanoke, Va., so being closer to home was also a draw to come back to the area.”

**“I decided to come back largely due to my excellent experience with the surgeons as well as the overall atmosphere and ‘family’ dynamic at PCH.”**

Dr. Harron earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg. He completed a general surgery residency at Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls,

Ohio, serving as chief resident from 2023-2024. His academic experience includes serving as a clinical instructor of surgery at Northeast Ohio Medical University and as a resident bootcamp instructor at Western Reserve Hospital.

Dr. Harron performs surgery of the abdomen, breast, minor/emergent chest procedures, trauma, and endoscopy. He is currently accepting patients. To schedule an appointment, please call Mercer Medical Group General Surgery at 304-425-1852. ■



# Imaging Services Extend to McDowell and Wyoming Counties

PCH is equipped with the most advanced imaging capabilities that offer medical professionals the tools they need to make a clear, lifesaving diagnosis. From the spectral CT scanner and MRI to ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and 3D mammography, our main Princeton campus has the latest technologies to serve our patients.

Outside of Princeton, PCH is offering convenient imaging services in Bluefield, Oceana, Welch and Mullens.

“Remote imaging services such as those located at Bluefield, Welch, Mullens, and Oceana are valuable assets to our patients,” said Director of Imaging Services James Boggs. “These services allow patients to receive high-quality care in their own community.”

**Exams are read by the same radiologists who interpret exams at PCH, providing helpful diagnosis in many different patient care circumstances.**

*To schedule an imaging appointment at any of PCH's facilities, call 304-324-2740.*

*Diagnostic x-ray procedures are not required to have scheduled appointments. Patients may walk in with appropriate physician's outpatient orders. ■*



## SERVICES OFFERED

### **Bluefield Emergency and Ancillary Services**

Diagnostic X-Ray, CT

### **Oceana FHCA**

Diagnostic X-ray, 2D Mammography (Screening Only), mobile CT scan twice a month on Thursday, mobile MRI every Friday

### **Welch FHCA**

Diagnostic x-ray, mobile MRI every Thursday

### **Mullens, The Medical Imaging Center**

Diagnostic x-ray

# Smart Beds, Safer Care

## CUTTING-EDGE ICU BEDS ENHANCE COMFORT AND PREVENT PRESSURE INJURIES

The 18 Intensive Care Unit and Critical Care Unit beds at PCH have been upgraded to new, state-of-the-art “smart” beds to provide a safer and more comfortable stay for critical patients.

Critical care patients—especially those who are elderly, immobile, malnourished, have poor skin quality, or have extended hospital stays—are at higher risk for pressure injuries. The new Stryker beds feature mattress systems that continuously redistribute weight and aid in patient positioning to prevent pressure injuries.

In a study conducted by Bon Secours hospitals, patients experienced 91.7 percent fewer pressure injuries during their critical care stay because of this patient bed technology.

Another feature of the beds is that they can lower to just 14 inches, helping with patient mobility. They also have advanced alarm systems to prevent accidental falls, as well as a phone holder/charger for patients to keep their personal devices close by. ■







*Debbie Hager, RN, accepts her DAISY Award.*



*Kimberly Boone, RN, celebrates her DAISY Award with colleagues.*

# Nurses Honored with Prestigious DAISY Award

Debbie Hager, RN, who works at The Behavioral Health Pavilion of the Virginias, and Kimberly Boone, RN, a team member in the hospital's critical care unit, are recipients of The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. They recently received their awards from PCH administrators during surprise ceremonies in their respective units.

Since January, four PCH nurses have received this prestigious international award that recognizes the outstanding, compassionate care nurses provide to patients every day. Nominations come directly from patients and their families and employees' coworkers.

Debbie was nominated by her manager for her efforts that helped a patient through a crisis. Debbie explains that she

doesn't see her actions as anything heroic or extraordinary, instead her focus was on the patient. "She truly has a nurse's heart!" her nominator wrote. "Patients are fortunate to have someone like Debbie looking out for their wellbeing."

Kimberly's nominator is a nurse practitioner who has known and worked with nurses for 25 years. "I have not experienced another nurse as outstanding as Kimberly," she says. She thanks Kimberly for the care of her mother during a recent stay and wrote, "I found Kimberly to be an exceptional nurse. She was careful and conscientious. She had strong critical thinking skills and excellent nursing judgment. She did the small things that matter most to a patient. She made my mom feel like she had nothing but time for her." ■



*Did you have a nurse at PCH who should be recognized? Nominate them by scanning the QR code or visiting: [www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/thank-your-nurse-nomination](http://www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/thank-your-nurse-nomination)*



# Hospital Improvements Enhance Patient Care

PCH continues to enjoy an era of construction with exciting projects completed in recent months. These improvements to the hospital are adding convenience and enhancing patient and family care.

## Infusion Center

The new Infusion Center opened to patients August 26. See the story on page 8.

## Women's Center – Nursery Improvements

The Phase 3 renovation to the Women's Center creates a more modern, comfortable, and safe environment for newborns who require additional care. Utilizing the existing footprint of the nursery, this area enjoyed a refresh including new flooring and paint, and a more efficient layout.

## Valet Parking

With the addition of the valet parking station at the North Tower, PCH team members park patient cars for free while they are visiting the hospital. Valet parking is especially helpful to our patients with mobility and other health issues.

## New Dining Option

The new Country Roads Café Pit Stop, located in the North Tower lobby (former Parkview Center) offers breakfast and lunch items, Monday through Friday. Both hot and cold food will be available as well as grab and go items. ■





# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## OCT

**National Breast Cancer  
Awareness Month**

**National Domestic  
Violence Awareness Month**

**October 1, 8, 22**

Childbirth/Breastfeeding Classes

5:30 – 8 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7092 to register.*

*Participants should register for all classes.*

**October 5**

PCH Health Fair

Mercer Mall, Bluefield, WV

7 a.m.-3 p.m.

**October 8**

Cancer Support Group

12-1 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7515 for more information.*

## NOV

**National Lung Cancer  
Awareness Month**

**National COPD  
Awareness Month**

**November 5**

Cancer Support Group

12-1 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7515 for more information.*

**November 5, 12, 19**

Childbirth/Breastfeeding Classes

5:30-8 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7092 to register.*

*Participants should register for all classes.*

**November 14**

Diabetes Education at PCH

12-4 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7642 to register.*

## DEC

**National Impaired Driving  
Prevention Month**

**National Safe Toys  
and Gifts Month**

**December 3**

Cancer Support Group

12-1 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7515 for more information.*

**December 3, 10, 17**

Childbirth/Breastfeeding Classes

5:30-8 p.m.

*Call 304-487-7092 to register.*

*Participants should register for all classes.*

# New Providers

Welcome to our new physicians and advanced practitioners

## PRINCETON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Nadish Garg, MD  
*Internal Medicine/Hospitalist*

Calvin Ghimire, MD  
*Internal Medicine/Hospitalist*

Preetraj Kaur, MD  
*Internal Medicine/Hospitalist*

Joseph Baisden, MD, PhD  
*Radiation Oncology*

Matthew Snuffer, FNP-BC  
*Emergency*

Nichole Linzy, FNP-C  
*Cancer Center*

Matthew Vero, PA-C  
*Emergency*

Tracey Lester, FNP-BC  
*Emergency*

Marilyn Bailey, FNP-C  
*Emergency*

Jenna Bain, FNP-C  
*Emergency*

## MERCER MEDICAL GROUP GENERAL SURGERY

Ray Harron, DO  
*General Surgery*

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PAVILION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Virginia Bradley, PMHNP-BC  
*Outpatient Counselor*

Debra Dees, PA-C  
*Outpatient Counselor*

Erica Graham, LPC  
*Outpatient Counselor*

# Accepting New Patients

Primary and Behavioral Health Care Providers Operated by WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

### Behavioral Health Pavilion of the Virginias Outpatient Counseling Program

1333 Southview Drive  
Bluefield, WV 24701  
304-327-9205

Virginia Bradley,  
PMHNP-BC  
Erica Graham, LPC  
Debra Dees, PA-C  
Cheryl Taylor, PhD

## PRIMARY CARE

### Athens Medical Center

401 Vermillion Street  
Athens, WV 24712  
304-384-7325

Dr. Jessica Aliff  
Natasha Barker, PA

### Bluefield Family Medicine

106 Huffard Drive  
Bluefield, VA 24605  
276-322-3427

Dr. LaDonna Bowling  
Cathy Bryson, NP  
Amy Harrup, NP

### Bluefield Internal Medicine

510 Cherry Street,  
Ste. 206  
Bluefield, WV 24701  
304-324-2661

Amy Alvis, PA-C  
Kim Matzel, PA-C

### Bluewell Family Clinic

154 Majestic Place  
Bluefield, WV 24701  
304-589-4377

Dr. Eric McClanahan

### Mercer Medical Group—Blue Ridge Internal Medicine

407 12th Street Ext.  
Princeton, WV 24740  
304-487-0232

Beverly Whitt, NP  
Ashley Larkin, NP

### Mercer Medical Group Pediatrics

114 Undercliff Terrace  
Princeton, WV 24740  
304-425-0025

Dr. Lyndsey Weatherly

### Mercer Medical Group Primary Care

118 12th Street  
Princeton, WV 24740  
(Behind PCH)  
304-487-7936

Dr. Martye Marshall  
Caleb McDonald,  
APRN, FNP

Amanda Neal, CRNP  
Kasandra  
Nelson-Jones, PA-C  
Ariel Schulte, PA-C