WellSpan Breast Care welcomes new doctors

In the fall WellSpan Breast care welcomed two new surgeons, Dr. Kareen Ayre and Dr. Catherine Plzak.

Dr. Ayre joins the practice after completing her surgical breast fellowship from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. “As a new member of the WellSpan Breast Care team, I look forward to working with a multidisciplinary team of specialists to provide the best care to our patients with breast cancer and other breast diseases,” said Dr. Ayre. “Because our patients are our priority, and each cancer diagnosis is unique and life-changing, it also is very important that I develop open lines of communication and great working relationships with all providers that serve our patients to make this journey as seamless as possible for our patients.”

Dr. Kareen Ayre

Dr. Catherine Plzak

Dr. Plzak joins after most recently being director of the breast center at Chestnut Hill Hospital. “I’m excited about the team approach utilized here among my breast care colleagues and multidisciplinary specialists as we meet regularly to determine best practices for our patients in the treatment of their unique cases,” said Dr. Plzak. “Each person involved in the care-team approach has a unique role and is working to ensure the patients we care for receive the best, most advanced care we can provide and receive the best possible outcomes.”

Both Dr. Ayre and Dr. Plzak are seeing patients at the Chambersburg and Waynesboro office locations. To refer a patient, call 709-6599.

New da Vinci robot at Chambersburg

Recently, WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital installed its second robotic surgical system, the da Vinci Xi. This new version of the da Vinci robot will allow providers to perform cases easier, faster, and safer. Dr. Nadeem Quazi was the first surgeon to perform a case on the new da Vinci Xi.

“It is much easier to manipulate, faster docking, multi-working, longer instruments,” said Dr. Quazi. “It has allowed the surgeons to adopt laparoscopic techniques widely, for example, the learning curve of the robot is shorter than the learning curve of laparoscopic. For the patients, this means that the surgeon can achieve surgery safer at times and things that cannot be done laparoscopically can be done on the robot with ease. It has allowed for smaller incisions, for example colectomies can be done with much smaller incisions compared to laparoscopic approach. Some robotic surgeries allow use of lower number of incisions compared to laparoscopic as seen in our bariatric surgeries.”
New interventional radiology suite now open

A few months ago, a new interventional radiology suite opened at WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital. The suite comes with new state-of-the-art technology, featuring three patient prep and recovery areas and a procedure room. Chambersburg Hospital interventional radiologist Dr. Andrew Mullins is performing procedures out of the new suite.

“Bringing this new technology to WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital will help keep patients who need these treatments close to home with advanced technology used at some of the bigger institutions,” explained Dr. Mullins.

Dr. Mullins performs the following procedures: Kyphoplasty and Vertebroplasty, Dialysis Access Management, Venous Disease, Vascular Malformation, Arterial Embolization, Bone Ablation, Thermal Ablation, and Peripheral Arterial Disease Evaluation. To refer a patient to Dr. Mullins, call (717) 267-7585, option 1, to schedule.

Clerkship program teaching community medicine

The Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC), is a medical program were medical students from Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, have been receiving education from the providers of WellSpan Summit Health and Keystone Health. The providers have been very interested in and devoted to medical education as they believe in the philosophy of giving the gift of education to the next generation of doctors. The education department and the preceptors of both the organizations work very hard to provide first-hand knowledge, experience, and procedures to the medical students. In contrast to receiving medical education in a large tertiary care setting, the medical students here receive direct patient learning. On March 23rd the third class of students will begin the LIC program.

Provider Spotlight - WellSpan Family and Internal Medicine offices

Recently, all 11 WellSpan Family and Internal Medicine offices achieved Patient Centered Medical Home status through NCQA.

Niki Hinkle, Senior Vice President of SPS WellSpan, was very happy with everyone’s hard work in achieving the status. “Because of their continued efforts and dedication, we’ve been able to not only achieve this certification, but make a significant difference in many of our quality scores and outcomes. This work has supported the integration of behavioral health into several of our practices, while also allowing us to move forward with a much stronger focus on Social Determinants of Health. We have truly seen the difference we can make in our patients lives through this work.”