Culbertson

CONNECTION Your Health. Your Hospital.





A Message from Our CEO

At the beginning of November, the team at Culbertson Memorial Hospital began working in our new Electronic Medical Record system, Oracle Health Community Works. The implementation of this system is the culmination of two years of work by the entire organization. For most of the last year, a significant portion of our staff has had to perform their regular jobs along with building and preparing for launching the new EMR.

As I contemplate the team's efforts and the positive effects the new EMR will provide for the hospital and its patients, I can't help but reflect on the multitude of positives occurring throughout the organization. I believe our mission statement — "Community Access to Quality Care" — accurately sums up what we strive to achieve. Our goal is to provide our communities with as much care as possible at the highest level possible and in a fiscally responsible manner. Using the mission statement as our guide, we have:

- Completed renovations that provide the facilities for an increased number of outpatient specialty providers, as well as enhanced oncology and infusion services.
- 2. Built relationships with regional partners to significantly increase the number of specialties we offer, including the additions of neurology, orthopedics, nephrology, infectious disease, podiatry, gynecology, otolaryngology (i.e., ear, nose, and throat or ENT), and vascular surgery, to name a few.
- 3. Built and supported our team of primary care providers.
- 4. Improved workflow processes that provide more efficient and higher quality care.
- 5. Sought the highest caliber medical oversight with the hiring of a new Medical Director.
- 6. Reset expectations for our Emergency Department by changing the physician group providing ED care.

This is only a partial list of projects we are tackling every day here at Culbertson Memorial Hospital to be the best we can for our patients and the communities we serve.

Without question, the greatest resource of this organization is our people. There are three groups of people that we must be very thankful for: our staff, our Board of Directors, and the community members who support us. Healthcare has become an environment in which staff members can choose to work wherever they want. The highly skilled team that provides your care chose to do so at Culbertson Memorial Hospital. This choice to serve is also exhibited by our Board of Directors. This volunteer board dedicates countless hours of their time to help guide the organization and preserve it for current and future generations. The choice of support is provided by our patients. In a world where you may choose to go anywhere for your care, you choose Culbertson. For the commitment shown by all these folks, I am eternally grateful.

Thank you & Happy Holidays!

Gregg Snyder

CEO, Culbertson Memorial Hospital



Catch Your Breath

Pulmonary Function Testing Diagnoses Common Lung Conditions

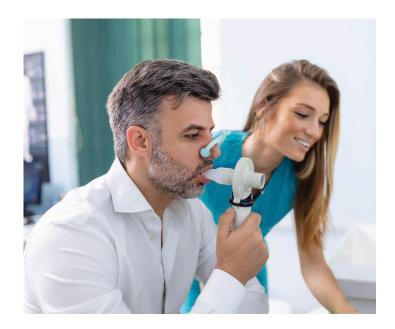
Breathing is one of the most fundamental elements of human life and a bodily function many take for granted, seemingly almost automatic. But for many, illnesses and conditions of the respiratory system can transform the simple act of breathing into a struggle. According to the American Lung Association (ALA), more than 34 million Americans live with a chronic lung illness like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). If you're one of millions fighting just to take a deep breath, pulmonary function testing at the Culbertson Specialty Clinic can help diagnose your condition and determine the next steps.

Culbertson Respiratory Therapist Niki Wise described the pulmonary function testing process as three noninvasive tests — spirometry, diffusion capacity testing, and lung volume testing — each measuring how well the lungs are functioning. "These tests can provide your physician with information on how well your lungs are working," she said. "Based on your symptoms, your provider would recommend pulmonary function testing to develop a treatment plan or monitor your progress." Common symptoms that may merit a pulmonary function test include:

- · CHRONIC OR EXCESSIVE COUGHING
- PAIN, PRESSURE, OR TIGHTNESS IN CHEST
- TROUBLE BREATHING OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- WHEEZING

Spirometry, which the ALA calls "the most common type of pulmonary function test," measures how much air you can breathe in and out, as well as how fast the lungs can exhale. After placing a clip on your nose, your physician will ask you to blow as hard and fast as possible into a plastic mouthpiece connected to a spirometry machine.

Lung diffusion testing (DLCO) uses a mixture of gases to determine how efficiently blood and carbon dioxide move



between the lungs and blood. During this test, you'll be asked to breathe in a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen, a small amount of carbon monoxide — not enough to hurt you — and a tracer gas. As you exhale, the amount of carbon monoxide absorbed is measured.

Finally, lung volume testing is designed to measure the amount of air your lungs can take in. Like spirometry, you'll be asked to wear a nose clip and breathe in and out through a plastic mouthpiece. Testing equipment attached to the mouthpiece will measure how much air is being inhaled and exhaled, giving your provider a better understanding of your lungs' volume.

Not all patients will undergo every form of pulmonary function testing. "If your provider orders a full PFT, then you would go through all three. However, sometimes physicians order one specific test to monitor different conditions." Testing is usually completed within an hour. Once testing is completed, Wise said, results are sent to a pulmonologist for interpretation, then forwarded to your provider to discuss treatment plans and next steps with you.

Breathe easy again. Contact your primary care provider about your pulmonary function. *To schedule an appointment, call the Culbertson Specialty Clinics at (217) 322-4321, ext. 5271.*

Welcome Our New Providers! Boosting our Hospital & Clinic Medical Staff

At Culbertson Memorial Hospital, we're committed to expanding our medical team to broaden our medical expertise and provide more well-rounded healthcare services for patients of all ages. That's why we're thrilled to welcome three outstanding new providers onboard — Dr. Deseray Aguirre, Dr. Stephen Ryan, and Heidi Greer, APRN!

Deseray Aguirre, DO is an osteopathic physician who is seeing patients at the Elmer Hugh Taylor Clinic in Beardstown beginning Friday, Dec. 8. A Wisconsin native, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Oshkosh, WI, before earning a Master of Science in nursing from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Aguirre earned her DO from A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, MO. She is board certified in family medicine and osteopathic manipulation treatment.

"My dad became ill a few years back — since then, I've been serving as an advocate for his care. I also took care of and lived with my grandmother for a few years," Dr. Aguirre said. "I know how difficult getting the care you need can be and how those barriers impact patients. I specifically wanted to become a family doctor because I

know how important family is. Being able to take care of entire families is great for continuity and really getting to know your patients.

"I want my patients to get the sense that their doctor cares about them and their health — they are not just another number. Often, it can be hard to connect with your doctor; I want patients to feel like they can talk to me."

Stephen Ryan, MD is a vascular surgeon from Springfield Clinic who will see patients at the Culbertson Specialty Clinics in Rushville beginning in January. After earning

his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago,
Dr. Ryan completed a surgery residency and a vascular surgery fellowship at the
University of Iowa College of Medicine and University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics,

both in Iowa City, IA.

"I am very excited to begin treating people with vascular disease and illnesses in Rushville at Culbertson Memorial Hospital."

"I am very excited to begin treating people with vascular disease and illnesses in Rushville at Culbertson Memorial Hospital. I was raised in a Central Illinois farming community of 1,200 people, so I understand how difficult it is to travel to a larger city for medical care, particularly if it involves seeing a specialist," Dr. Ryan said. "I have organized and conducted vascular surgery outreach clinics in Hillsboro, Jacksonville, Lincoln, and Taylorville for the past 27 years."

Dr. Ryan sees patients for a wide range of vascular illnesses, including cerebrovascular disease, aortic aneurysms, lower extremity circulation and wounds, dialysis access, and varicose veins. "In addition, there are already excellent on-site ultrasound and radiology services at Culbertson that will allow testing without a trip to Springfield or other larger communities," he explained. "I am looking forward to providing outpatient surgeries and minor procedures at Culbertson, so people don't have to begin their recovery with a long drive home."

Dr. Ryan is board certified in vascular surgery and is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society and the Sangamon County Medical Society.

Heidi Greer, APRN is a family nurse practitioner who will see patients at Rushville Family Practice and the Elmer Hugh Taylor Clinic beginning in mid-December. After earning a RN, BSN, MSN, and FNP in nursing from Grand Canyon University, Heidi received her RN from the Graham School of Nursing in Canton. She received her FNP from Maryville University in St. Louis. Heidi originally joined Culbertson in August 2019 as a department head/RN in Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation. She has worked as a PRN at both the hospital and Culbertson Community Clinics since fall 2022.

"I am very excited to continue working for the Culbertson Clinics in my new role. It gives me a great sense of purpose and meaning to be able to serve my local community,"

"I am very excited to continue working for the Culbertson Clinics in my new role. It gives me a great sense of purpose and meaning to be able to serve my local community," Heidi said. "I appreciate the team environment of Culbertson Memorial Hospital. Everyone works together to best serve their patients and their community. We take pride in patient care, always treating your family just the same as we would treat our own."

Dr. Merlo Named Associate Medical Director

Culbertson Memorial Hospital is thrilled to welcome Alex Merlo, MD as the new associate medical director for the Culbertson Memorial Hospital Emergency

Department. Having served in the Culbertson ED for more than four years, Dr. Merlo is a dedicated and experienced physician with a background that includes an MD from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, a general surgery internship at Western Michigan University, and a comprehensive family medicine residency at UChicago Medicine Adventist Hinsdale, during which he spent one month treating patients in the Peruvian Amazon.

Dr. Merlo brings a wealth of knowledge to this new role and is well equipped to provide exceptional care and leadership in this vital healthcare setting. His commitment to patient well-being makes him a valuable addition to the Culbertson team.



Comforting Care for Kids Culbertson ENT Clinic Offers Pediatric Procedures

Are your littlest patients struggling with chronic sinus issues? From sinusitis to ear infections, these conditions can be especially hard on pediatric patients — and the parents caring for them. Thankfully, all-new procedures at the Culbertson Specialty Clinics can offer some much-needed relief for children dealing with ongoing illnesses and conditions of the ear, nose, and throat.

Otolaryngologist Paul Conrad, MD, FACS offers a wide range of outpatient surgical services at the Culbertson ENT Clinic, part of the Culbertson Specialty Clinics, providing parents with a convenient, local option for persistent sinus conditions. "Receiving care close to home is always a comfort for both parents and young patients. Here, we know our patients and community, so with familiarity comes a level of comfort," said Kristi Hinegardner, DNP, MSN, RN, Director of Clinical Operations at Culbertson Memorial Hospital. "Having these services so close to home means decreased travel costs and time off from work or school."

Primary physicians often refer pediatric patients to an ENT for a wide range of conditions affecting the sinuses, larynx, mouth, and throat, such as multiple ear infections, snoring, or repeated incidents of strep throat. Surgical procedures may then be recommended based on the child's history and symptoms.

Procedures available at the Culbertson ENT Clinic include the following:

- TONSILLECTOMY AND ADENOIDECTOMY
- EAR TUBE INSERTION
- MASS REMOVAL OF THE NECK AND THROAT
- THYROID TREATMENT

Naturally, both patients and parents may experience some nervousness ahead of the procedure. Dr. Conrad and his staff will discuss the specifics of the procedure beforehand, while an outpatient team will collaborate with surgeons to create a seamless transition of care during the child's stay. "The child will always have a nurse with them, and we get the parents back to the recovery room as soon as possible to help minimize fear," Kristi explained. "We educate before, during, and after the procedure with printed instructions for review, giving many opportunities to ask questions."

Is your child suffering from chronic ear, nose, and throat conditions? Contact your pediatrician today to see if a surgical procedure at the Culbertson ENT Clinic is right for them. For more information, call (217) 322-4321, ext. 5271.

A C-through Procedure

New C-arm Equipment Enables Port Insertions at Culbertson Memorial Hospital

Traveling out of town for a procedure is a hassle — even more so for cancer care. When receiving this crucial medical care, depending on nearby medical services can reduce the stress and fatigue that come with a long drive and may hinder cancer therapy. For cancer patients in Schuyler County, a brand-new method of delivering lifesaving medication can keep them close to home.

Purchased in May 2023 thanks to a donation from the Culbertson Memorial Hospital Foundation, the hospital's new C-arm allows for enhanced visualization during port insertion procedures, according to Kristi Hinegardner, Director of Clinical Operations at Culbertson Memorial Hospital. "Implanted ports are inserted with the C-arm for continuous visualization of the vein being accessed, allowing port insertions to be completed in the safest manner available," Kristi explained.

Using X-ray technology, a C-arm is an imaging device that can be manipulated to capture images at various angles. This allows for greater efficiency and fewer complications during surgical procedures including port insertions, during which a central venous catheter (CVC) is implanted into a vein for the delivery of intravenous medication. "Generally, the primary provider is an oncologist, which refers patients to a surgeon for port placement and scheduling the procedure in the operating room," Kristi said, adding the process is multidisciplinary, including members from Oncology, the Culbertson Infusion Center, Surgery, Radiology, and the Culbertson Specialty Clinics.

By providing this procedure in a local environment, Kristi said the hospital can help keep patients in a more comfortable environment rather than travel hours away from home. "Prior to the addition of this medical service at Culbertson Memorial Hospital, patients had to travel to Quincy, Peoria, or Springfield to have their ports inserted," she said. "Traveling is not always the easiest option for some. So, we are fortunate to provide this much-needed care for our community."

For more information on port insertions at Culbertson Memorial Hospital, contact the Infusion Center (217) 322-4321.



Saving Time & Lives

Teleneurology Enables Culbertson ED to Provide Quick, Lifesaving Care

Time is crucial in the event of a stroke. Even after a patient is admitted to the Emergency Department, the simple act of transferring them to a larger healthcare facility can use valuable, lifesaving time. Fortunately, a brand-new partnership between Culbertson Memorial Hospital and HSHS will enable providers in Rushville to get patients the expert care they need in a timely manner.

Teleneurology is a process during which patients presenting stroke, stroke-like symptoms, or other neurological emergencies at Culbertson may be examined virtually by an HSHS neurologist. The service is made possible by a grant managed by HSHS.

"Thanks to the grant from HSHS, Culbertson recently purchased a telemedicine robot. This will give immediate access for a neurologist to view and examine the patient virtually and collaborate with our onsite emergency department provider for imaging testing, medications,

and other treatments," said Culbertson Chief Operating & Nursing Officer Michelle Epps. "If a transfer is still needed, we would have already started the medical care necessary to provide the best possible outcomes for our patients."

This service is beneficial especially to rural health providers that may not have a full-time neurologist on staff, Michelle said, expediting diagnosis and care by communicating virtually with an HSHS neurologist. "However, if ongoing care or treatment is needed by a neurologist, our Emergency Department providers and clinical teams will expedite a transfer to ensure the right care in the right place at the right time," she added.

For more information on emergency services at Culbertson Memorial Hospital, visit cmhospital.com/services/emergency-services.

Act FAST

Can you recognize the warning signs of a stroke? Remember, time is of the essence — if you recognize the symptoms, call 911 immediately. The American Stroke Association recommends using the letters F.A.S.T. to spot warning signs, which include:



Face Drooping



Arm Weakness



Speech
Difficulty



Time to Call 911

Streamlining Our Medical Records Culbertson Memorial Hospital Launches New EMR System

Culbertson Memorial Hospital and Culbertson Clinics launched a brand-new electronic medical record (EMR) system in November, providing an integrated framework that communicates throughout the organization and offering patients a streamlined and secure way to manage their health and wellness information electronically.

"We're excited to implement this upgraded and integrated system."

"We're excited to implement this upgraded and integrated system. The Oracle Health Community Works system is designed to offer a new, efficient patient portal with enhanced technology and security," said Culbertson Memorial Hospital CEO Gregg Snyder. "Our entire team has worked diligently over the past year to bring this new system online and we are thankful for their dedication and effort for this conversion. The transition to Community Works is a major milestone for Culbertson."

from our legacy systems over to Community Works while simultaneously familiarizing themselves with the new EMR. "While the staff has done extensive training to make sure the transition goes smoothly, we do expect a few delays as we get our new system up and running," Gregg Snyder explained. "We want to thank everyone for their patience in advance as we make this essential technologic upgrade."

After the transition period, patients can look forward to an enhanced registration and check-in process, an easy-to-use patient portal that will offer a single source to view lab results, review their most recent trip to the doctor's office, learn what to expect at an upcoming appointment, and directly message their providers. Patients will also notice a change in the way they receive billing statements. All balances due for your household will be on a single, cumulative balance statement rather than receiving multiple statements for each visit.



Annual Appeal to Raise Funds for Sterilization Equipment

Each winter from December to February, the Culbertson Memorial Hospital Foundation Annual Appeal raises funds for new equipment and updates to improve the quality of care available to residents of Schuyler, Brown, Cass, and southern Fulton counties. This year, the Foundation has selected new sterilizers for the Surgery Department as their annual fundraiser.

Unfortunately, the hospital's current sterilizers have reached the end of their life cycle. The purchase of new AMSCO® 400 Series small steam sterilizers will allow the Culbertson Memorial Hospital Surgery Department to not only sterilize surgical equipment, but also all equipment for the Emergency Department, Specialty Clinics, Rural Health Clinics, and Wound Clinic. The new sterilizers are expected to run five days a week with added surgeons and procedures, compared to three times a week with the current equipment.

"The larger capacity of the new sterilizers will increase productivity, allow for quicker turnaround times for delivery of equipment to outlying departments, and reduce operational costs," said Molly Sorrell, Culbertson Memorial Hospital Director of Development, Marketing, and Community Relations.

Steam sterilizers — also known as autoclaves — are an important component in the decontamination and sterilization process, designed for fast, efficient sterilization of heat- and moisture-stable materials, Sorrell said. The AMSCO® 400 Series is designed for space-constrained facilities with a 20-by-20-inch autoclave validated to accommodate up to three 25-pound sets. Designed for quick turnaround, the 400 Series meets all AAMI/AORN guidelines while reducing water usage.

To donate to this year's fundraiser, visit cmhospital.com/foundation or call (217) 322-5269.



Memorials & Contributions

Beardstown Healthcare Complex Foundation Dot Foods Charitable Giving Committee Dr. Eli Goodman

2023 Dr. Russell Dohner Memorial Golf Outing

The Whitetail Group, LLC

2023-2024 Annual Campaign

Ms. Estella Hamilton
Dr. and Mrs. S.K. Kanthilal
Mr. and Mrs. Gerlad Korsmeyer
Tracy Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tracy
John Tribbey, CPA
Mr. Daniel Wagner
Mrs. Linda Ward-McClelland

Pampered Pink Silent Auction

Mrs. Kristen Campbell
Mrs. Bonnie Heitz
Mrs. Sharron Howell
Mrs. Sonya Johnson
Ms. Lisa Kettering
Ms. Debbie Lipcamon
Mrs. Laura Mitchell
Mrs. Tela Montgomery
Mrs. Miranda Morrow
Dr. Kerstin Stitt
Mrs. Joan Sullivan

Mrs. Bev Taylor Mrs. Harold Ward Mrs. Liz Wood

Mrs. Debbie Worthington

In Memory of Virginia Abbott

Mrs. Nancy Lashbrook Mr. and Mrs. Mike Stauffer

In Memory of Ann Crook

Mrs. Dianne Snyder and family

In Memory of Robert Jones

Mr. Bill Boyd and Ms. Nancy Young

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bozarth Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Burton Mr. and Mrs. Scott Butler

Ms. Nita Bridges Class of 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Clemens Corbin Real Estate, LLC

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Corrie

Ms. Becky Cox Mrs. Christie Cox Ms. Rita Crosby Mrs. Mindy Crum Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Crum

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Mrs. Norma Smith

Mrs. Dianne Snyder and family Springfield Christian School Mr. and Mrs. Brian Sorrell Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Southerlan Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Terrinoni

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Toland

Mrs. Lydia Tolle Mr. and Mrs. Tim Trone Mr. Kenny Walters

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Ward

Ms. Mariolyn Wheeler and Mr. Ted Baer

Mr. and Mrs. Kent Wildrick

Ms. Brandy Wise

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Worthington
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Worthington
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wright

Ms. Julia Vincent

In Memory of Larry Lashbrook

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy McClelland Mrs. Norma Smith

In Memory of Charles Snodgrass

The Class of 1960

In Memory of Charlotte Boyd Thompson

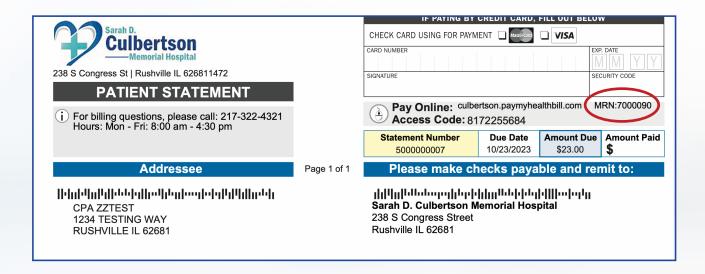
The Class of 1960

Your Info at Your Fingertips

Access Records & Talk with Your Providers with Culbertson MyHealth

G etting your important medical information doesn't require a trip to the hospital or even a phone call — all you need is a smartphone and one convenient app! Culbertson MyHealth is a patient portal that allows you to chat one on one with your healthcare providers and review information such as visit history, medications, and billing.

Available for both Apple and Android phones, Culbertson MyHealth streamlines the process of accessing important information within one handy, secure location. Best of all, signing up is easy!



- · Visit cmhospital.com.
- In the main menu, click "Patient Portal" under "Patients & Visitors."
- Click the button reading "Click Here to Self-Enroll."
- On the enrollment form, choose to verify your account with personal identifiers, then enter
 your Medical Record Number (MRN) and the last four digits of your Social Security Number
 (SSN). Your MRN should appear on your bill as shown above.

Enroll with Culbertson MyHealth today — visit culbertson.iqhealth.com/self-enroll to get started! For more information or support, call (217) 322-5244.

