

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

CMC RECEIVES AN 'A' FOR PATIENT SAFETY



Conway Medical Center (CMC) was awarded an 'A' from The Leapfrog Group's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grade. The designation recognizes CMC's efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards in the United States. The Leapfrog Group is a national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospi-

tals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms among patients in their care.

"We are proud of our staff's efforts and dedication toward patient safety.

This recognition further exemplifies Conway Medical Center's commitment to compassionate care our patients can trust," said Bret Barr, president and CEO of CMC. "As the continued leader in healthcare in the Horry County area, we are excited to be recognized by The Leapfrog Group for earning this A Hospital Safety Grade."

Developed under the guidance of a National Expert Panel, the

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public. This ranking provides an important resource for patients, and a benchmark for hospitals, to determine how care at one hospital compares to others in a region.

Conway Medical Center was one of 855 across the United States awarded an A in the Fall 2018 update of grades. To see Conway Medical Center's full grade details, and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- American Red Cross Blood Drive, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 843-347-8035
- Breast Cancer Support Group Feb. 12 & Mar. 12, 5:30 p.m. 843-234-7309
- Diabetic Support Group, Jan. 28 & Feb. 25, 6 p.m. 843-347-8068
- Joint Pain & Treatment Options Seminar (Knee, Hip & Shoulder) Jan. 30 & Mar. 27, 12 p.m. 843-347-5857
- Spine & Neck Pain Seminar Mar. 15, 12 p.m. 843-347-5857
- Weight Loss Surgery Seminar Feb. 7 & Mar. 7 6 p.m. 843-347-5857

CMC NOW A DUKE HEALTH AFFILIATE IN HEART

Conway Medical Center (CMC) is excited to now be one of only two Duke Health Affiliates in Heart in South Carolina and the only in the region. This affiliation provides our team with access to Duke Heart Center's experience and expertise to enhance CMC's heart care services in our community. The Duke Heart Center is currently ranked among the top heart programs in the nation for adult cardiology and heart surgery by the US News & World Report 2018.

"Conway Medical Center is excited to further expand our cardiovascular program and join the Duke Heart Network," said Bret Barr, President and CEO of CMC. "CMC has been a leader in the healthcare industry in Horry County since 1928, providing award-winning services and

high-quality medical care. This affiliation further demonstrates CMC's commitment to evolving and meeting the ever-changing needs of our area."

Through this affiliation, the Duke Heart Network will work closely with the cardiovascular services team at CMC to assist in translating the latest evidence-based guidelines and practices for adoption into best practices to enhance the quality of cardiovascular care in the community. The Duke Heart Network consists of dedicated experts experienced in devel-



DukeHealth AFFILIATE
IN HEART

DUKE HEALTH AFFILIATE CONTINUED...

oping, sustaining, and growing premier cardiovascular programs. This team facilitates access to national thought leaders from the Duke Heart Center who form the basis for the latest practice guidelines and quality metrics for cardiovascular care.

“Quality is the cornerstone of everything we do at Duke,” said Amy Kessenich, MHA/MPA, RN, Senior Direc-

tor of the Duke Heart Network. “We understand that organizations and communities differ, which is why we work closely with hospital leaders, staff and local clinicians to identify and implement the processes that best serve each community’s cardiovascular needs. We look forward to implementing those processes here in Horry County to drive positive outcomes for patients.”

CMC and Duke Health formed and will maintain this affiliation through a rigorous process which starts with a baseline, comprehensive cardiovascular program review. That review is conducted by a dedicated Duke team of experts experienced in developing, sustaining, and growing premier cardiovascular programs. Following the review, CMC and the Duke Heart Network will develop a collaborative work plan which will drive the next steps and define the expected outcomes.

GETTING TO KNOW DR. JAMES VEST

Dr. James Vest grew up in a large family with six sisters and one brother in a small town in Michigan. Most of his extended family worked in the auto industry. He says with eight children, they didn’t take many vacations but enjoyed being together and there was always lots of activity in the home. He recalls being about 12 years old when he took the bar stools in the kitchen and shaped them into a drum set of sorts. Unfortunately, he used knives as the drumsticks. When his father asked the next day who carved up the bar stools, he laughingly remembers, “Of course I blamed it on my sister!” That Christmas, he received a real drum set as a gift, which started his love of playing music. Today, he’s in a band called Retrograde, and for the last ten years, they’ve performed all over the Grand Strand at venues, festivals, and events. Another of the band members is a Physician Assistant in his practice, Fritz Frye.

He says he enjoys a variety of interests and likes doing a lot of different things, so he went into family medicine rather than focusing on one specialty. He didn’t go straight to medical school after earning his bachelor’s degree

from Michigan State. He worked in a microbiology lab for four years before obtaining his master’s degree in public health. Then he went on to medical school. He says some days he feels like a detective as he spends his time, “listening to people and trying to figure out what their real issue is.”

He was the medical director for four nursing homes for 25 years in the Myrtle Beach area, so he has a lot of experience in treating senior adults. He says one of his goals for his older patients is to get rid of some of their medications, rather than prescribing more. For example, he says, “They’ve been on these blood pressure pills, sometimes several of them, now their body has changed, and they don’t need as much medicine. That’s kind of the art of dealing with the geriatric population is to reduce medicine, so that takes some talking sometimes.” He enjoys talking and laughing with his patients and finding out their stories. He wants to make them smile.

While the rest of his family remained in Michigan, he and his wife moved to the Myrtle Beach area in 1987 after he finished his residency. He met his



wife, Sharon, in college and says it was love at first sight. They’ve been married 41 years and have one daughter who graduated from Coastal Carolina University.

In addition to music, he enjoys Hobie Cat sailing off the beach, hiking, and he ran an in-line hockey league for 14 years and played for 16 years. He now referees the games. As for his medical practice, he can’t see himself retiring, because he would need to find something else to do to keep busy, and he says with a laugh, it probably would not pay the same.

As a family medicine physician, Dr. Vest has joined Conway Medical Center and he practices in two locations- his Carolina Forest Family Medicine office (843) 236-9925 and Surfside Beach Primary Medical Associates office (843) 238-5654.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A BIG IMPACT AT CMC

Conway Medical Center is currently seeking volunteers to fill a variety of positions including patient escorts, clerical assistance, waiting room reception and more. Volunteers for this position must possess excellent customer service skills, be compassionate, courteous, and able to handle confidential situations. They must also have the physical ability to manage occupied wheelchairs. Does this sound like you?

To apply to become a CMC Volunteer, you can pick up an application from the hospital information desk, Volunteer Service Center or the Director of Volunteers, or you can apply online at: www.conwaymedicalcenter.com/volunteers-only/

Join a select group of friends and neighbors who give of themselves to make a real difference for our patients, visitors, and staff.

