



The Medical Center

# Physician Newsletter

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Physicians.TheMedicalCenter.org

## The Medical Center Welcomes New Physician To Its Staff



**Mary Lou Wilson, M.D.**, has joined the Medical Staff of The Medical Center at Bowling Green. Dr. Wilson, who specializes in Internal Medicine with an interest in diabetes, is located at Graves-Gilbert Clinic, 201 Park Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101 and may be reached at (270) 393-2730 or by fax at (270) 783-0453.

**Commonwealth Health Corporation**  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
**PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE**  
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## Hospitalist Program at The Medical Center

The hospitalists at The Medical Center provide several functions that relieve admitting physicians, provide timely assessments and treatment, and care for unassigned patients. The Medical Center began its program in July 2006 with six patients a day. That figure has grown to an average of 45 patients, which is approximately 20 percent of the hospital's adult census.

The hospitalists are board certified Internal Medicine physicians employed by CHC and are dedicated to the acute care of hospitalized medical patients. They are available to care for unassigned patients presenting to the Emergency Department when the ED physicians feel they require hospitalization or need an Internal Medicine consult. Additionally, they are available to provide inpatient medical consults as requested by a sub-specialist and to provide inpatient medical care to the patients of primary care physicians who choose to enter into a service agreement with the hospitalist practice. An example would be if an orthopaedic patient is admitted to have a hip replacement, yet also has diabetes and congestive heart failure, the orthopaedic physician will care for the hip replacement but the hospitalist will manage the other illnesses. This allows the orthopaedic physician to concentrate on his/her specialty without much worry about co-morbidities.

Because the hospitalists do not have a private practice, they are available in the hospital 24/7, which allows them to follow up on tests and procedures in a timely manner and discharge patients when they are medically ready. They are actively involved with case management and begin planning for discharge at the time of admission. Additionally, hospitalists can lead quality improvement teams to focus on the development of care protocols to help reduce variations in care.

The primary goal of the hospitalist program is to decrease length of stay and costs per case of the inpatient population while maintaining and/or improving the overall quality of care to the patients. Secondly, having this program in place allows the primary care physicians to see a larger volume of patients in their office while the hospitalist rounds on the hospitalized patients. During the hospitalization, the hospitalist is the attending physician. However, the primary care physician is welcome to provide courtesy visits to their patients.

The complement of six hospitalists at The Medical Center admits for many physicians in Warren and surrounding counties, and they provide consults for any specialist who requests one. The hospitalist admits nearly all incoming transfers from other hospitals as well as all unassigned Internal Medicine ER patients. Dr. Sam Hardcastle is the Medical Director and oversees the program. Primary care physician participation in this program is voluntary, so in the event they prefer to make rounds on and admit their own patients, they are welcome to do so and may stop using the hospitalist service at any time.

For more information, please call Pam Lam, Program Coordinator, or Dr. Hardcastle at 796-6540.