Lung Cancer: A new approach

Onalee Milbocker is a testament to the cardinal rule that the earlier a cancer is detected, the greater the likelihood of successful treatment.

A nodule was discovered on the Allegan grandmother’s lung four years ago and doctors monitored the condition over time.

Recently, however, a new non-invasive procedure at Borgess Medical Center allowed physicians to take a close look at the tiny nodule and perform a speedy biopsy.

The result: They caught the cancer at Stage 1, early and most treatable.

“I wasn’t really scared,” Onalee said. “I should have been. But I think because of my husband, I knew he was not going to take it well. So, I had to take it well.”

Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENB)

Dr. Jason Ladwig, pulmonologist, Borgess Pulmonary Medicine, said the new technique is called Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENB).

“It’s essentially a GPS guide for the lung,” he said. A fiber-optic probe was inserted through Onalee’s throat and guided to the tiny–12mm–nodule, allowing immediate access for a biopsy.

“By conventional means, we still would have been stuck waiting and the cancer could have gone undetected,” Dr. Ladwig said. “But we were able to use our new technology to biopsy it now and not wait any longer.”

Once diagnosed, Onalee was scheduled for surgery.

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Borgess partners with Medxcel Facilities Management

Borgess Health has reached a partnership with Medxcel Facilities Management, an Ascension subsidiary, to consolidate and manage facilities services throughout the health ministry. The Go-Live implementation occurred Wednesday, May 20.

Medxcel FM focuses on solutions that improve service, reduce vendor service contracts and enhance skilled resources, while utilizing the latest information technology. “The partnership is part of the transition of the Ascension Michigan Ministries to One Ascension,” said Eric Buzzell, vice president, General Services and Property Management, Borgess Health.

“Medxcel FM are experts in facilities management,” he said. “We have always had excellent facilities management throughout Borgess. The Medxcel FM partnership will bolster our facilities initiatives in the future.”

The Medxcel FM partnership will mean few changes for associates throughout Borgess Health. Associates who currently access the on-line self-service link through the Borgess Health intranet page may continue to request service in this manner. The location of the link will remain in the same position on the intranet. Clicking the link, however, takes associates to a Medxcel FM page where the information gathered for the request will be similar as it is today.

For Go-Live information or questions about Medxcel Facilities Management, contact:

- Joe Laughlin, Medxcel Facilities Management, (317) 715.1236 or Joe.Laughlin@Medxcelfacilities.com.
- Eric Buzzell, vice president, General Services and Property Management, Borgess Health, (269) 226.7320 or EricBuzzell@borgess.com.

Borgess holds Spring CEO Forums

Delivering on our 125-year promise is a key theme from Kathy A. Young, MS, president & CEO, Borgess Health, at CEO Forums that took place this month at Borgess Health facilities.

Young reiterated the importance of maintaining and improving a focus on safety, experience and value. She mentioned critical strategies Borgess must implement over the next few years that will help the health ministry deliver on its 125-year promise:

- Safety - reduce falls, high reliability,
- Experience - ED, NPS
- Performance (value) - execution,
- Access to Care and Primary Care Recruitment,
- Growth in service lines and primary care, and
- Physician leadership and governance structure.

“Young emphasized the importance of building a health ministry that values strong communication among associates, focuses on being one team that strengthens the patient experience, and maintains the Borgess Mission and commitment to community. She introduced the formation of an Associate Collaborative Council, associates who will engage with Young and other health ministry leadership to share information. The Associate Collaborative Council is one of multiple initiatives designed to enhance associate communication in order to ensure associates have a voice in decisions that impact their work.

Borgess is having a strong year, drawing on volume, according to Young. Income from operations shows $18.2 million so far this fiscal year – a significant improvement from the same time last year. ER and physician visits are also up from prior years, as are overall surgeries and equivalent discharges.

“We are having a great year” she said, “our hard work from the last few years is paying off and we need to celebrate our accomplishments. We will continue to focus on meeting the needs of the communities we serve and we will stretch ourselves to build a truly person centered approach to Healthcare that will sustain us for the future.”

125th Anniversary Crossword Puzzle winners

Two lucky Borgess Health associates are recipients of the book Health Care Anew: The First 125 Years of Borgess Health. Judy Kleis, operations manager, Borgess Health & Fitness Center; and Patti Lewis, patient coordinator, Borgess Surgical Specialties, were drawn from a pool of participants who correctly completed the Borgess history crossword puzzle.

The puzzle appeared in the March 13 edition of Teamwork. For more information on the book and our 125th anniversary, visit history.borgess.com.

Mobile Impella truck comes to Borgess

The mobile Impella simulator truck will be at Borgess Medical Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, May 29, at the southeast corner of Parking Lot M, near the intersection of Gull Road and Shaffer Street. Impella is a device that pumps blood into the heart. The mobile simulator gives a live display of how the Impella procedure is done, and brings awareness to cardiovascular disease and treatment options.
Dependent eligibility verification program begins for Borgess Health associates

Ascension has contracted with HMS Employer Solutions to review dependents covered by our benefit plans. The cost of insuring dependents who are not eligible affects the premiums that you and Ascension pay. Regular review of associates’ covered dependents helps us manage the cost of health care.

Beginning May 18, HMS will send letters to current associates who have elected coverage for their dependents under one or more of our plans. If you receive a letter, you will be asked to provide documents that show your dependents are eligible. A list of required documents will be included with the letter.

The documents you may be asked to provide are easy to find—like a copy of your child’s birth certificate, your last tax return, a utility bill or account statement. In general, it’s information that shows your dependent is your spouse or is a child under age 26, or the dependent lives with you or you claim the dependent for tax purposes.

Protecting personal information is a priority to Ascension and HMS. In compliance with applicable U.S. (federal) and state regulations, information and documentation provided to HMS for the Dependent Eligibility Verification program is stored, processed, and protected by physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards.

HMS meets all of the professional and legal standards associated with providing service to employers, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), and disposal rules as enforced by the Federal Trade Commission. In addition, every employee of HMS submits to a thorough and multi-tiered background check. Only HMS employees directly involved in the Ascension dependent verification program will have access to the documents provided.

You will NOT be asked to provide financial information, social security numbers or credit information. If your pay, account balances, account numbers or social security numbers are visible on any document, please mark out that information before sending it to HMS. No one from HMS will contact you to ask for your financial information or for financial information about your family members.

If you have questions about the dependent verification program, please contact HMS Employer Solutions Customer Care at (866) 977.2969.

$200 can be as easy as 1-2-3

Taking three easy steps to create a SmartHealth account gives you access to $200 in HRA funds as an enrollee in a SmartHealth medical plan.

You can begin by logging onto myascension-wellness.org. (Please have your health insurance card handy to complete the following steps.)

1. Designate your primary care provider.
2. Complete the HRQ (Health Risk Questionnaire).
3. PCP Wellness Visit.

(Have your annual physical and have your provider sign the “Primary Care Physician Wellness Visit Verification” form.)

If you have any difficulty with the SmartHealth website, call (866) 451.1265.

June 4 workshop will help new drivers (ages 14-17)

New drivers between the ages of 14 and 17 (and parents) can learn important road skills by attending a free safe-driver workshop 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, in the Lawrence Education Center, Borgess Medical Center. The workshop will emphasize safe-driver habits and the implementation of Michigan’s graduated drivers licensing (GDL) program. Dinner will be provided and raffle prizes will be available.

Pre-registration is required. To register and for more information, contact Megyn Gose, injury prevention coordinator & educator, Borgess Health, (269) 226.7075 or MegynGose@borgess.com.

athenahealth goes live

The new initiative in physician billing and practice management is now in place throughout Borgess Health. Implementation of athenahealth, a best-in-class provider of practice management services, went live April 28 at all Borgess Medical Group physician practices and clinical sites. A local command center was set up inside the Medical Specialties Building at Borgess Medical Center, where a resource team assisted practice administrators on such issues as practice workflow, data management questions and patient document scans.

(Above, left to right) Jennifer Shrack, system specialist, Ascension; Mikeil Fox, senior system specialist, Ascension; and Amanda Winkle, senior system specialist, Ascension, answer calls inside the Borgess Command Center on April 28.
A new approach to lung cancer
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“The new technology was very beneficial for Onalee so that she could come to me to talk about doing minimally invasive lung surgery to remove her lung cancer and give her the best chance for a cure,” said Dr. Samer Kanaan, thoracic surgeon, Borgess CardioThoracic Surgery. Onalee was in Borgess only three days following the surgery and will be closely monitored. She is, however, now cancer-free. “Everybody now is just looking forward and being so grateful,” Onalee said. “I had terrific doctors and I couldn’t be more grateful.”

The American Cancer Society says that despite advances in diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer during the last 50 years, it causes more deaths than any other cancer in men and women. Lung cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosis in the United States and accounts for 14 percent of all cancer deaths. “Capturing lung cancer early, such as stage 1 as Onalee’s case was, gives patients an 85-plus percent chance of being cured at five years,” Dr. Kanaan said.

Paul and Karen Spaude donate Holy Family Sculpture

Former Borgess Health President and CEO Paul A. Spaude, and his wife, Karen, made a return visit to Kalamazoo on May 19 to dedicate the Holy Family Sculpture at a Dedication Ceremony and Blessing outside the atrium entrance near the Borgess Medical Center parking structure. The Holy Family Sculpture was donated by the Spaudes, and their names are included on a plaque next to the display. The Most Reverend Paul A. Bradley, Bishop, Kalamazoo Diocese, led the Blessing during the Dedication Ceremony. Paul Spaude retired from Borgess in October 2014.

Paul Spaude, former president and CEO, Borgess Health, speaks at the Dedication Ceremony and Blessing of the Holy Family Sculpture at Borgess Medical Center.

The Most Reverend Paul A. Bradley, Bishop, Kalamazoo Diocese, blesses the Holy Family Sculpture outside the atrium entrance.

Leather Sale
(up to 75% off)

Thursday, June 4
10 am–4 pm
&
Friday, June 5
7 am–4 pm
Borgess Medical Center
Lawrence Education Center Auditorium

Proceeds benefit the Borgess Birthing Center

You’ll never look at running on a treadmill the same again. And, for a limited time, associates of Borgess Health, Ascension Health and wholly owned subsidiaries of Ascension Health may join the fitness center for only $10 and pay no membership dues until July 1, even if you’ve been a member before and cancelled your membership!