**A message from the Dosher Board**

**Dosher Medical clinics: A winning strategy**

When the Board of Trustees approved plans for the hospital to begin operating freestanding primary care clinics, the idea was to open two as a test and then decide whether and where to grow from there. The first ones—Southport in 2011 and Oak Island in 2012—proved highly popular.

Tom Siemers became the new president & CEO in 2012 and he and his new administration team put that modest plan on steroids, adding four clinics in 2014: Urgent Care, North Howe Street, Smithville Crossing, and Women’s Health.

Part of this vision involved expansion from primary care only to include gynecology services at the Women’s Health clinic as well as a staff surgeon. The latter occurred in 2015 when Dosher opened the General Surgery, Long Beach Road, and Bald Head Island clinics.

The jewel in the plan was development of Dosher Wellness

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**Dosher op-ed appears in national healthcare publication**

President & CEO Tom Siemers wrote a commentary on the importance of eradicating surgical smoke which appeared in **Becker’s Hospital Review** in April. Read the entire commentary at Dosher.org.

**Hospitals should do the right thing for staff, as well as patients**

*Written by: Tom Siemers* / April 23, 2018 / Print / Email

All patients who enter the doors of Dosher Memorial Hospital in Southport, North Carolina, expect to receive high-quality care in a safe, clean environment. But I’d wager that few patients in any hospital consider whether it is also safe and clean for the medical professionals who provide that care.

The truth is, we talk about safety for our patients a lot; but providing a safe environment for the team that takes care of them? Not so much. Obviously we want to make sure we provide safe, quality care for our patients, but we also have to make sure we provide a safe working environment for our teams. That’s why Dosher made its operating rooms smoke free.

Of course, I’m not talking about tobacco smoke, as all hospitals ban tobacco smoke. I’m talking about surgical smoke, which is a common presence in operating rooms around the country. Surgical smoke is created when surgeons use electrical devices to cut skin and bones or to cauterize blood vessels.

The medical literature on surgical smoke is startling—burning surgical smoke is equivalent to smoking six cigarettes in 15 minutes. Surgical smoke contains the same dangerous chemicals (and even more toxic chemicals) as cigarette smoke. Despite these clear dangers, there are no federal or state regulations mandating that hospitals protect surgeons and nurses from exposure.

In the past it was difficult to prevent exposure. Though operating rooms are extremely clean, machines that purity the air for the whole room aren’t capable of capturing surgical smoke before it reaches doctors and nurses. However, new advancements in technology allow surgeons to capture smoke at the source before it exits the room.

Surgical smoke smells terrible, so removing it from the operating room makes for a more pleasant experience for everyone. But most importantly, removing smoke protects patients and staff from the potential harmful effects of inhaling it.

What’s special about this initiative at Dosher is that it started with the people closest to the procedure. The nurses who experience the most exposure to surgical smoke identified the issue and came up with solutions that our chief nursing officer and other administrators could pursue.

**Wound unit recertified for excellence**

For the third time in three years, the Wound Care Center at Dosher has delivered an annual “heal rate” for patients of more than 90 percent. For this accomplishment, Dosher’s clinical partner for wound care, Healogics, Inc., has recertified the department as a Robert A. Warriner, MD, Center of Excellence for wound healing. Dr. Warriner is a late medical director at Healogics.

“The doctors, nurses and technicians on the Wound Care team follow specific treatment protocols from our wound healing partner, and we work well together to deliver outstanding results for our patients. We truly are saving limbs and lives,” Brad Hilaman, MD, medical director, Dosher Wound Care program, says.

“For the year, our heal rate was 97 percent, and patients gave us a 95 percent satisfaction rating. No wonder our Center of Excellence certification was renewed,” John Stone, CHRN, director, Wound Care Center, says.

Seven members of the Dosher Wound Care staff are all smiles after the unit was recertified as a national Center of Excellence for wound healing.

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Center, which saw the Dosher physicians from Long Beach Road relocate to the new, 20,000-square-foot facility in 2016. Counting Dosher Medical Plaza, which opened in 2009 and is home to outpatient diagnostics, laboratory services, and the Urgent Care clinic, Dosher now operates 10 clinics. Each of these is located in the primary service area of Smithville Township and surrounding communities.

The clinics are on a pace of more than 31,000 patient visits this fiscal year. All the Dosher Medical clinics accept new patients and participate in most insurance and managed care plans. And now this year, Dosher welcomes Dr. Alex Newsom as the second provider at Dosher Medical North Home Street. He is a board-certified internal medicine physician who joined Dosher in July from CHERO, S.C., where he worked for McLeod Health. Reflecting on the clinic strategy, it’s one of the best things Dosher has done for the people of Smithville Township and visitors the past decade. You can read more about them at Dosher.org/Clinics.

Wound unit recertified for excellence

Since it opened in 2014, the Wound Care Center has provided more than 7,500 treatments for 1,100 patients.

For more information, call 910-454-1192 or visit Dosher.org/Wound. Based in Jacksonville, Florida, Halexia is the leading wound care organization in America.

Hospital Week/Nurses Week

CFO Dan Porter, Chief Nursing Officer Carol Northup, and CEO Tom Siemens don hair nets in the cafeteria, surveying guests, staff and Volunteers as part of Hospital Week and Nurses Week activities in May.

Bald Head Island

Reminder that the Dosher walk-in clinic at the Public Safety Building at Bald Head Island is open weekdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Aug. 31, excluding July 4. Read about all 10 Dosher Medical clinics at Dosher.org/Clinics.

Dosher medical clinics: A winning strategy

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The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) has presented Dosher the Association’s Go Clear Award™ for eliminating hazardous smoke from the Dosher operating rooms. Dosher is one of only 17 hospitals in the U.S. to earn this recognition. AORN cited Dosher and the others for increasing the safety of surgical patients, staff, and surgeons by eradicating smoke caused by lasers and electrosurgery devices used during 50 percent of all surgeries.

“Nosse committed to the health and safety of our patients, operating room staff, and physicians,” the national award underscores our focus on quality care,” said Northup, RN, MA, CENP-W, VP of Patient Care, dosher. “Thanks to Department of Surgery Director Kim York, RN, for leading the effort to eradicate surgical smoke.”

Dosher’s Surgical Atmosphere Team was the first to present an award for this safety move.

The hospital projects that more than 2,000 important and costly surgeries will be performed at Dosher in 2017.

Dosher earns 2nd national award for safety in surgery

Thirteen members of the Dosher Operating Room team pose with the award from AORN for eradicating surgical smoke.

Dosher salutes Volunteers for service to patients, visitors

The hospital recognized more than 75 volunteers for yearly or lifetime milestones at an annual luncheon in April. The five who volunteered the most hours in 2017 were (above) Ann Hollingsworth, 805 hours; Pat Girovics 808; Barbara Farley, 737; Terri Curtis, 562; and Mary Baldwin, 491. Volunteers donated 26,419 hours last year, or the equivalent of 12.7 full-time employees.

Total value of sales at the Flea Market and hospital gift shop, and donated time by Dosher Volunteers in 2017 surpassed $55,190.

At the Volunteer Tribute event, Dosher also recognized Curtis and Pegg Blair for reaching the 4,000-hour mark in volunteer time over the years. At year end, Curtis’s time donated at the Flea Market stood at 4,102 hours; Blair’s at 4,117. The Dosher Volunteers is an independent group of women and men formed in 1972. Read more about it at Dosher.org/Volunteers.

In the community

OKI Lighthouse Run

Close to 1,200 runners participate in the Chamber’s 20th annual run in April, sponsored by Dosher.

Best hospital

Readers of Brunswick Marketplace vote Dosher in a first place tie. Publisher Joanne Thompson poses with CEO Tom Siemens at an awards ceremony in May.

Letters to the editor

Articles and ads about Saturday hours at Dosher Medical Urgent Care promoted more than 75 several letters and messages, such as the following:

"Wonderful service." —Cynthia J

"Dawn Sampson, PA is the best. " —Rayfield B

"Laureen Smith... we are lucky to have her." —Linda H

"Love Linda Haltom." —Tommy G

"Thank goodness." —Kat G

"Good decision." —Robert H

"Great place." —Mat C

"Wow. Wow. Really." —Edna B

"Thank you all." —R.S. Lyle H

"Very nice and friendly people." —Endgate S

"A hospital that cares." —Faye A

"Awesome staff." —Sue M

"Hey Amanda Reynolds." —Tanya I

"A good idea." —Wando B

For more information on Urgent Care at 2222 Long Beach Road, call 910-454-4732 or visit Dosher.org/UrgentCare.

Superfoods

Dosher Chief Lisa Brielle conducts a healthy cooking demonstration. Nearly 250 people attended the various cooking and healthy cooking events over the winter and spring. Watch for a new series of talks and events this fall.

Community health survey

If you haven’t yet completed the hospital’s triennial community health needs assessment, please do so online at: Dosher.org/CHNS2018. It takes five minutes and will help Dosher plan future health and wellness services.

2 June 2018
Cardiac Cruisers—made up of Dosher employees and past and current cardiac rehabilitation patients—was the largest team with 51 participants. The second Dosher team had 49 entrants. Thanks to the 40 volunteers who staffed information tables and monitored the course that day.

Dosher welcomes primary care physician Dr. Alex Newsom

Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Newsom joins Dosher Medical-North Howe Street in July. For an appointment call 910-457-5657.