

# PHYSICIAN NEWSBRIEFS

May/June 2020

## Please Welcome New Providers



**Karl M. Ahlswede, MD**, hospice and palliative care, joined the team in Williamsport. Dr. Ahlswede earned his medical degree from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Ahlswede is board certified in hospice and palliative medicine

by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow, American College of Surgeons. Dr. Ahlswede sees patients at Hospice and Palliative Care, 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport. For more information, call 570-320-7680.



**Sandra Ahlswede, CRNP**, joined the palliative care team in Williamsport. Ahlswede received her master's degree in nursing from Walden University, Baltimore, Md., and her advanced certification as a nurse practitioner specializing

in adult gerontology from Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia. She is board certified in hospice and palliative medicine, adult gerontology acute care, and pain management. Ahlswede see patients at Hospice and Palliative Care, 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport. For more information, call 570-320-7680.



**Avery Axel, Psy.D.**, licensed psychologist, joined the behavioral health team in Williamsport. Dr. Avery earned his clinical psychology doctorate and masters from Immaculata University, Immaculata, Pa. He completed his psychology

residency at the Joseph J. Peters Institute, Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Avery see patients at 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport. For more information or to refer a patient, call 570-320-7525.



**Jacquelyn Elaine Baker, LCSW**, licensed clinical social worker, joined the behavioral health team in Williamsport. Baker completed her masters of social work at Binghamton University, Binghamton, N.Y. and earned a bachelor of

science in social work from Keuka College, Keuka Park, N.Y. Jacquelyn Elaine Baker sees patients at 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport. For more information or to refer a patient, call 570-320-7525.



**Wanda Hartman, MSW, LCSW**, licensed clinical social worker, joined the behavioral health team in Williamsport. Hartman completed her masters of social work at Marywood University, Scranton, Pa. and earned a bachelor of science in

human services from the Pennsylvania College of Technology,

Williamsport, Pa. Hartman sees patients at 1100 Grampian Blvd, Williamsport. For more information or to refer a patient, call 570-320-7525.



**Brian Kaderli, MD**, family medicine, joined the family medicine residency program in Williamsport, as an assistant director of faculty. Dr. Kaderli completed his doctor of medicine

at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa. and his medical residency at Mountain Area Health Education Center Rural Family Medicine Residency Program in Hendersonville, N.C. For more information, call 570-321-2345.

## Two UPMC Physicians in Northcentral PA Top "Under 40" List

The Pennsylvania Medical Society Top Physicians Under 40 winners come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Included on this year's list are two UPMC physicians in the Susquehanna Region, **Rutul Dalal, MD**, and **Ganga Ranasuriya, MD**.

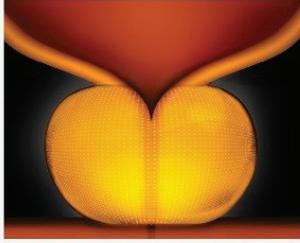
Dr. Dalal is the medical director of Infectious Disease at UPMC Susquehanna. He leads the organization's Antibiotic Stewardship Program, Clostridium Difficile Control Task Force, and Catheter Associated UTI Task Force, and is a fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America. Dr. Dalal is active in the community and serves as infectious disease consultant for the Little League Baseball World Series.

Dr. Ranasuriya is a pulmonologist and critical care physician at the Lung Center at UPMC Williamsport. Her colleagues note her willingness to take time to ensure her patients are fully informed about their treatment options. Dr. Ranasuriya is active in efforts to raise public awareness about lung health, participating in community outreach, events, and media opportunities.

"We are proud of Dr. Dalal and Dr. Ranasuriya for being recognized," said **David Lopatofsky, MD**, chief medical officer, UPMC Susquehanna. "As young professionals in the medical field, this honor reflects recognition for their commitment to their patients, the excellent quality of care they provide, and the recognition of their contributions by physician peers."

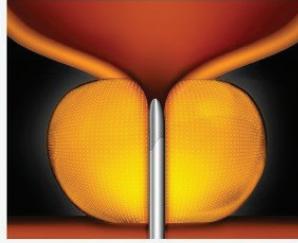
Winners were selected by a committee of Pennsylvania Medical Society member physicians. The 45 physicians on this year's list represent 19 different medical specialties.

## The UroLift® system



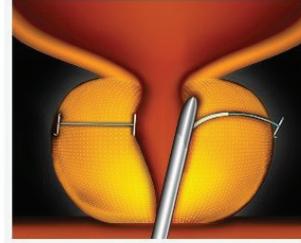
### Enlarged Prostate

An enlarged prostate can narrow or even block the urethra.



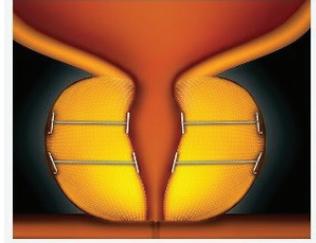
### Step 1

The UroLift Delivery Device is placed through the obstructed urethra to access the enlarged prostate.



### Step 2

Small UroLift Implants are permanently placed to lift and hold the enlarged prostate tissue out of the way and increase the opening of the urethra.



### Step 3

The UroLift Delivery Device is removed, leaving an open urethra designed to provide symptom relief.

## Advanced Urological Services in Williamsport

Our urologic team in Williamsport now offers patients the UroLift® procedure as a treatment option for men diagnosed with BPH. This minimally invasive treatment provides the patient with a quicker return to daily activity, symptom relief, and continued preservation of urological health.

The UroLift® system is a revolutionary approach to treating BPH that lifts and holds the enlarged prostate out of the way so that it doesn't block the urethra. This is the only procedure to treat BPH that does not require ongoing medication, or the removal or heating of the prostate tissue.

With the ability to offer the UroLift® procedure to urology patients in Williamsport, we continue to prove our dedication to innovative approach, improving quality of life and enhancing patient outcomes.

For more information, or to refer a patient, call 570-326-8090 or visit [UPMCSusquehanna.org/Urology](http://UPMCSusquehanna.org/Urology).

## UPMC Health Plan Update

Whether a patient is a UPMC Health Plan member, looking for new coverage, or seeking answers to health insurance questions, reliable customer service representatives are available to help at the UPMC Health Plan has a Connect Center located at 1925 E. 3rd Street, in the Loyal Plaza, Williamsport. Currently the office is closed, but representatives are available by phone by calling 570-322-9620. Stay tuned for monthly health events and other health-related programs.

To receive the latest UPMC Health Plan news and information for network providers, read or sign up to receive the monthly Provider Partner Update by going to [upmchealthplan.com/providers](http://upmchealthplan.com/providers).

If your office has any UPMC Health Plan network questions, please contact **Kim Makowski** at [makowskik@upmc.edu](mailto:makowskik@upmc.edu).

## The following are UPMC Health Plan updates: Encourage Your Patients to Get Screened

UPMC Health Plan recognizes the importance of preventive screenings in managing the health of your patients. That's why we are pleased to provide you information to assist with chlamydia screening. Since most women with chlamydia are asymptomatic, it is vitally important to screen all women 16 to 24 years old.

### How to Order "No Cost" Screening Kits

Order the Aptima Urine Specimen Collection Kit directly from Quest Diagnostics, test code 11361. Physicians receive the test kits free of charge. Quest Diagnostics will bill the Health Plan for processing. There may be no cost to your patients to have the test if billed with CPT-4 code 87491 (chlamydia trachomatis, amplified probe technique) and preventive diagnosis code Z11.8.

- You can place your order by calling the Quest Diagnostics supply line at 1-866-858-0121 or 412-920-7620. You can also order via fax at 1-888-275-0799 or 412-920-7852. You will need your account number when you call or fax.
- If your office doesn't have a Quest Diagnostics account, call Quest Diagnostics Customer Solutions at 412-733-1125 to order supplies and/or a lock box and courier, to pick up the specimens.
- Kits are delivered via FedEx to the address listed on the account.

For additional support, please contact **Kim Makowski** at [makowskik@upmc.edu](mailto:makowskik@upmc.edu) or call Provider Services at 1-866-918-1595.

UPMC Health Plan is working to better the health of our Medicare members through the Medicare annual wellness visit (AWV). This visit is integral to our members' health as it can be used as an opportunity for gap closure.

## **UPMC Health Plan Extends Members' No-cost Access to Telehealth Services**

UPMC Health Plan is extending \$0 cost-sharing for all covered telehealth services **through September 30, 2020**.

With UPMC Health Plan's commitment to remove financial barriers that could discourage our members from seeking telehealth services, including through UPMC AnywhereCare, members will not face deductibles, copayments, or cost-sharing of any kind for in-network virtual visits with a health care provider, including primary care physicians, specialists, and both physical and occupational therapy. This extension until September 30, 2020, applies to individuals enrolled in UPMC Health Plan's fully-insured commercial group coverage, individual ACA Marketplace plans, and our UPMC for Life Medicare Advantage plans, as well as self-insured employer group plans that opt into this coverage.

UPMC Health Plan provides 24/7 access to behavioral health services through traditional in-person counseling, telephonic counseling, and virtual counseling visits, as well as options for personal learning and support via innovative digital apps like Brain Manager, offered by UPMC in partnership with Workpartners. Brain Manager is a digital tool that teaches our members evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy techniques to manage their stress and anxiety through a custom, personalized experience. Other valuable telehealth services UPMC Health Plan offers to provide for our members' physical and mental well-being include:

- **Staying in Touch** — These virtual events are hosted by experts on preventive medicine, mental health, and other specialties.
- **MyHealth 24/7 Nurse Line** — UPMC Health Plan offers members the MyHealth 24/7 Nurse Line.
- **LifeSolutions** — a telephonic service dedicated to helping individuals cope with challenging life situations.
- **Resources for Life Counseling Sessions** — UPMC Health Plan's licensed, master's-level trained clinicians can provide UPMC for Life members with up to six over-the-phone counseling sessions per year.
- **Reliable Education** — UPMC Health Plan will update its website with timely, trustworthy information on COVID-19, including useful resources and articles from UPMC doctors and links to other trusted sources, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information, please visit [upmchealthplan.com](http://upmchealthplan.com).

## **Pediatric Rehabilitation Program**

The UPMC pediatric rehabilitation staff provide a variety of services to children, age birth to 21, including occupational, physical, and speech therapy, for those with diagnoses including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, coordination disorders, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, developmental delay, gross motor delays, apraxia, rare genetic disorders, and orthopaedic disorders.

Our therapists treat children with acute injuries, or long-term illnesses and disabilities. In partnership with parents and caregivers, we strive to ensure children experiencing injuries or developmental delays are able to function more independently.

The therapists work with each child and family to create a customized program specific to that child's needs. At the start of care, each child receives an individualized evaluation by a licensed pediatric therapist to identify impairments and overall concerns.

The UPMC pediatric rehabilitation team see patients at 625 W. Edwin St., Williamsport. To learn more, or to schedule an appointment, call 570-326-0565.

## **UPMC Foot and Ankle Specialty Care in State College**



**John Hunter, DPM**, is expanding access to specialty care in the State College, Pa. area. Dr. Hunter earned his medical degree from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and completed his residency at Our Lady of Lourdes

Hospital in Binghamton, N.Y. He is board certified with the American Board of Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Hunter is accepting new patients at UPMC Specialty Care in State College providing treatment options for foot and ankle problems including complex fracture repair, total ankle replacement, and wound care and more. He will see patients at 611 University Dr. State College, PA 16801 For more information or to refer a patient, call 570-321-2020.

## Specialty Access

Our providers continually strive to improve access to care. Call today for the earliest available appointments for your patients.

### Orthopaedics/Sports Medicine/ Foot & Ankle

570-321-2020

### Pain Management

Williamsport and Bloomsburg:

570-326-8457

Lock Haven 570-893-5437

### General Surgery

Williamsport: 570-321-3760

Lock Haven: 570-769-1300

Muncy: 570-546-4185

Wellsboro: 570-723-0716

### Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Williamsport - 570-326-8005

### Cancer Care

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Williamsport: 570-326-8470

Wellsboro: 570-723-2855

### Cardiology/Electrophysiology

Williamsport: 570-321-2800

### Urology

Williamsport: 570-326-8090

Lock Haven: 570-769-1300

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