

DISTRICT HEALTH NEWS

Marin Healthcare District. Creating a Healthier Marin Together.

WINTER/SPRING 2013

A Letter from Chief Medical Officer Joel Sklar, MD

Dear Fellow Citizens of Marin,



As I look back on the last year of activity at Marin Healthcare District, I am impressed by all that we've accomplished together. We're in the midst of planning for a new, state-of-the-art

hospital that meets the latest seismic safety requirements. We've seen Marin General Hospital (MGH) put new health programs in place that improve the quality of life for the people in our community, and we've completed a much-needed upgrade to the MGH Emergency Department.

We've earned awards and recognition that affirm MGH as a critical, important part of this community. Marin Healthcare District is proud to support this vital hospital in its service to our neighbors.

Without the support of our community, none of this would be possible. You are our bedrock, our inspiration, and our reason for doing what we do. Thank you.

Joel Sklar, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Marin General Hospital

It's Been a Rewarding Year

Marin General Hospital achieved distinction in 2012 for delivering exceptional care. The most recent awards and accreditations include the following:

Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and Primary Stroke Center Certification

Marin General Hospital received recertification from the Joint Commission for the stroke program and received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the second year in a row. Both programs are voluntary processes intended to elevate the standard of care for stroke patients and instill confidence in the community served.

Level III Trauma Program Reverification

The American College of Surgeons verified the presence of the resources listed in Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient. This is a voluntary process and only those trauma centers that have successfully completed a verification visit are included. MGH is the ONLY designated trauma center in Marin.

Breast Imaging Center of Excellence

The American College of Radiology accredited the Breast Imaging Center for adhering to high practice standards in image quality, personnel qualifications, facility equipment, and quality control and assurance procedures. To maintain their designation, facilities must undergo an onsite review every three years.

Marin Cancer Institute – Outstanding Achievement

In April, the cancer program earned the Outstanding Achievement award from the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer.

Top Doctors Named

In February 2012, 208 physicians practicing at MGH were named to the prestigious [415] Top Doctors 2012 by *Marin Magazine*. The list was compiled through peer-to-peer polling of more than 4,000 doctors in San Francisco and Marin Counties, with the results clearly demonstrating respect and appreciation for the excellent physicians at MGH.



An Important Distinction: LEVEL III TRAUMA CENTER

Marin General Hospital (MGH) is Marin County's only designated trauma center, and it was recently reverified by the American College of Surgeons. MGH first received verification by the American College of Surgeons in 2009 and was the first center in California and the only hospital in Marin to voluntarily achieve this distinction.

What's a Level III Trauma Center?

A trauma center is a hospital that is specially qualified to treat trauma victims, who typically show up as a result of an accident, which makes planning for them nearly impossible. Trauma patients require onsite emergency nurses, specialists, and surgeons around the clock to ensure immediate response to critical situations.

A Level III Trauma Center designation verifies that MGH meets the following strict criteria:

- 24-hour availability of trauma surgeon and team
- Emergency resuscitation, surgery, and intensive care resources and equipment
- Transfer agreements with Level I or Level II Trauma Centers for back-up support

What Does Having a Trauma Center in Marin Mean to You?

Injuries (trauma) are the leading cause of death in people ages 1–44, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Given this, the odds of people in our community experiencing some sort of trauma are high; having the quick response and expertise of a Level III Trauma Center nearby can mean the difference between life and death.

What's more, victims treated at trauma centers have a 25 percent higher survival rate compared to those seen in hospitals without those services, according to a *New England Journal of Medicine* study.

Facility Upgrade Better for All Emergency Care

The MGH Emergency Department recently went through a major upgrade that benefits both trauma patients and less acute cases. The expansion of the triage area means that patients with less severe issues aren't forced to wait while more critical patients' problems are addressed.

Big Developments for Our Patients

One of the official missions of the Marin Healthcare District is to enhance the provision of quality health care in the communities served by the District, and to be an advocate for the health care needs and interests of the residents of the District. In the last year, three key initiatives at MGH have helped us meet these mandates.

Launch of the Braden Diabetes Center

A generous gift from entrepreneur and MGH supporter Bruce Braden ushered in the Braden Diabetes Center (BDC) this year, a full-service outpatient facility offering education, care, and support for diabetes patients. Braden copes with diabetes himself, and wanted to help others with the disease to get the care they need beyond the hospital setting. The basic elements of the BDC revolve around teaching self-management skills to patients and their families, with a focus on dietary/nutritional therapy, including the use of glucometers, lifestyle and preventive measures, and peer support groups. Our experts assess patients' history, condition, lifestyle, and overall health goals, and then provide comprehensive educational resources to help patients learn vital self-management skills. "It's my chance to make a difference," said Braden.

"Having diabetes is not an obstacle—it's an incentive." – Bruce Braden

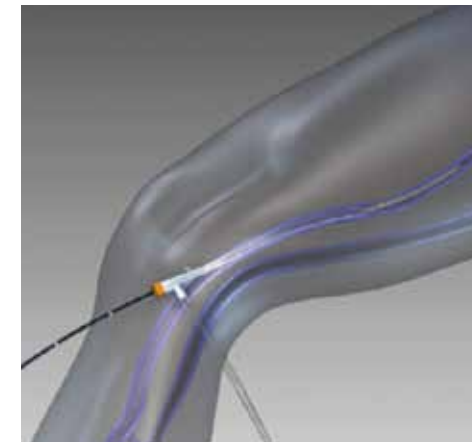
Emergency Department Upgrade

Just 18 months after a \$2.89 million donation jump-started the expansion and upgrade project for Marin General Hospital's Emergency Department (ED), the completed project is getting rave reviews from patients and staff members. The changes are worth celebrating: family-friendly waiting areas, and faster, more efficient assessment and treatment of patients. "We cover a broad spectrum of acute care needs. Someone with a torn muscle, smashed finger, or troubling cough may not be able to wait to see their own doctor during business hours. This project assured that patients are able to access the level of care needed without enduring a long wait," said Dr. Jim Dietz, Medical Director of the ED.

Opening of Sirona Vascular Center

Marin Healthcare District's Sirona Vascular Center opened a second location, next door to MGH. Specialized vascular care provided by Dr. Laura Pak and her team meets a growing need in Marin County. Vascular surgeries provided include aortic aneurism repair, minimally invasive procedures for deep venous thrombosis, treatment for peripheral arterial disease, varicose vein treatments, limb salvage treatment for extremity trauma and gangrene, dialysis access surgery, and carotid surgery. The center also offers the Venefit™ procedure for superficial venous reflux disease.

Approximately 12,000 men and women are at risk for venous disease in our area.



In Marin County, close to 200 people visit the emergency department every day.¹



Marin General Hospital is Marin County's ONLY...

- Designated Trauma Center
- Accredited Chest Pain Center
- Comprehensive Heart and Vascular Care
- Certified Primary Stroke Center that can treat all types of stroke on site

1. Statistic construed from National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2009.



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