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METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM MEDICAL STAFF NEWS



Help support patients as we expand Medication Therapy Management



Martin L. Koonsman,
MD, FACS, CPE
Chief Medical Officer

Methodist has a robust system in place to support patients' medication needs through our Medication Therapy Management program (MTM) and our Methodist Community Pharmacies.

To continue building on the success of the program, we will look to strengthen medication access, continuity of care, and the overall patient experience by emphasizing the value of our MTM services and Methodist Community Pharmacies to an expanded group of patients and drug therapies.

While our initial focus was on medications used to treat complex therapies, we are expanding this program to support a broader group of patients and providers through more coordinated post-prescribing workflows.

What this means for you

As part of this initiative, we are strengthening clinic-pharmacy coordination to support patients throughout their care journey:

- Pharmacy teams will continue to support medication access needs, including prior authorization and coverage coordination when appropriate, to reduce delays in therapy initiation.
- Improved visibility into available pharmacy resources at Methodist Community Pharmacies to help patients stay connected to their care team and treatment plan.
- Partnering with care teams to identify opportunities to simplify workflows and improve patient satisfaction

What to expect next

Over the coming weeks, the team will engage clinical stakeholders to observe and better understand current workflows and any existing barriers to expanding the MTM program.

Insights from this work will help identify opportunities to strengthen coordination after prescriptions are written and reduce administrative burden for providers. Findings will inform future improvements to the "prescribing and fill" coordination between clinics and Methodist Community Pharmacy Services.

Additional details will be shared and individualized to your practice as the initiative progresses.

Continuing Medical Education survey

If you attended a CME activity in 2025, please consider completing the survey below. It should take only a few minutes, and your input will help us improve continuing medical education now and in the future.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



Care Commitment: Helping a patient go home again

In this Care Commitment message, a medical resident shared the profound realization that healing doesn't always mean a recovery. Dignity may be enough when it comes to end-of-life care.

During the resident's shift, a critically ill patient was told there were no other medical options, she was no longer a candidate for transplant, and chemotherapy or radiation were not viable options. The patient had one wish: to go back to her home country to spend her final days with her family.

The resident watched as the hepatology, nephrology, and palliative care teams came together to carefully wean her off critical medications and arrange the complex logistics needed to safely get her home to her country.



Click [HERE](#) to read the RISE newsletter

Equipped to Care

Methodist Dallas celebrates surgical achievements, expanding a lifesaving toolbox



Pump revitalizes livers, expanding pool of donors

Methodist Dallas' transplant team got a major boost to its liver transplants this year with its pioneering use of the Bridge to Life VitaSmart Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) system.

This innovative technology uses oxygenated perfusion at cool temperatures to rejuvenate donor livers during preservation.

"Leadership at Methodist had the vision to get this pump quickly after it received FDA approval," said **Alejandra Mejia**, MD, executive director of organ transplantation at Methodist Dallas. "It's a privilege to have this tool to expand the pool of donors for our patients."

By optimizing organ viability, the HOPE system enables longer preservation windows and has been shown to reduce post-operative hospital stays for recipients.

Robotic knee replacement spares quadriceps tendon

The orthopedic team at Methodist Dallas recently performed the hospital's first subvastus MAKO robotic-assisted knee replacement.

Unlike traditional methods that cut the quadriceps tendon, the subvastus method takes a minimally invasive approach by gently moving the muscle aside to access the bone.

By preserving the tendon and muscle, this technique significantly reduces pain, minimizes tissue damage, and speeds up the recovery process for patients.

Cardiology team pioneers MitraClip, PFA catheter

Methodist Dallas' cardiology team performed the system's first MitraClip procedure, a minimally invasive therapy for patients with mitral regurgitation.

The condition is caused by a leaky heart valve and could lead to fatigue, palpitations, and even heart failure. The MitraClip device, implanted via a catheter, is attached to the mitral valve and restores the space to allow appropriate blood flow.

The cardiology team was also the first in the system to use the first-to-market linear pulsed field ablation catheter (PFA). This type of catheter uses short bursts of electrical pulses to treat atrial fibrillation. In the recent case at Methodist Dallas, the patient who was diagnosed with arrhythmia was treated with PFA and discharged the same day.

Methodist Richardson Cancer Center adds PET CT scanner

Methodist Richardson has officially launched its new PET CT scanner within the Cancer Center.

The scanner is one of only two GE Omni Legend models in North Texas. The all-digital system is designed for high NEMA sensitivity and resolution.

Other key features include AI-driven workflows, respiratory correction, and scalable imaging, all of which make it ideal for oncology, cardiology, and neurology.





Methodist Community Collaborative Mobile unit readies for 'Big Blue' debut

The Methodist Community Collaborative hopes to expand access to the primary care provided at its Bonton Wellness Center with the debut of the Mobile Medical Unit.

Affectionately nicknamed "Big Blue," the mobile unit is equipped with a lab and enough space to accommodate multiple patients at a time. Due to roll out this summer, it also features a wheelchair lift, a dental chair, and even facilities for gynecological exams.

"I'm excited to extend the access to free healthcare to other communities, as well as continue promoting health and wellness for generations to come here in South Dallas," said **Dora Johnson**, MD, family medicine specialist on the medical staff at the Methodist Community Collaborative Health Center.

Methodist Richardson 2 new ORs cap off 16 years of growth

Two new operating rooms opened at Methodist Richardson, completing a \$20.4 million expansion that began in December 2024.

"These additional ORs will help us meet the rising demand for surgical services in our community," said President **Ken Hutchenrider**, FACHE. "The completion of this project also marks the first time in 16 years that this campus has not been under construction.

Methodist Richardson now has 13 ORs with another in the shell space, to be finished out as needed.



Built for Success



Methodist Southlake

Methodist Legacy standalone ERs open

Methodist Legacy ER and Urgent Care has opened two new standalone facilities in Coppell and North Richland Hills.

Now integrated into Methodist Southlake as departments, the team of nearly 100 dedicated professionals at these facilities is ready to provide high-quality, affordable care.

Methodist Legacy facilities offer both urgent care and emergency services in a single location, making it more convenient for patients

Methodist Midlothian

ER expansion hits another milestone

Methodist Midlothian is reaching new heights with its \$24.8 million emergency department expansion, an 8,800-square-foot addition that includes 16 exam rooms and one new trauma room.

Team members had the opportunity to sign a structural beam that will soon be part of the expanded space.

The space will also feature a new CT imaging suite adjacent to the ED, a staff breakroom, a refreshed EMS lounge, and expanded parking to support patient flow and EMS access.



Methodist Celina

Labor and delivery adds midwife options

Methodist Celina labor and delivery department is expanding maternal care options by onboarding its first Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) group.

The program provides a bridge for mothers who want midwife-led prenatal care but also want to deliver at the hospital.

Since the department opened, it has welcomed 13 babies, including Maret Mae (pictured left), with 60 more deliveries scheduled in the coming months.

OB/GYNs also provide specialized fertility diagnostics and interventions, supporting families from the very beginning of their journey.

Setting the Standard



Methodist Police assess threats to meet every need

Most campuses across Methodist Health System have now implemented a Threat Assessment process to support teams when safety situations become complex or there is concern about a potential threat involving a patient, visitor, or others in the care environment.

The intent is the same across the system: to make sure no one is left managing these safety sensitive situations alone and that concerns are addressed early with the right level of support.

Any staff member or member of the medical staff can activate the Threat Assessment process by **calling 8888** and informing the operator they need a Threat Assessment. That single step quickly brings the right resources together and allows the situation to be assessed in real time.

Once activated, the response is tailored to what is needed. Nursing leadership, Methodist Health System Police, medical staff, hospital administration, and other partners come together based on the circumstances. This allows for a well-rounded assessment that considers clinical needs, safety concerns, and operational impact.

From there, the group works together to develop a clear and practical plan that supports the care team, maintains a safe environment for staff, and allows patient care to continue without unnecessary disruption. It gives the care team a clear path forward in situations that can otherwise feel uncertain.

At the same time, any active threat or immediate concern can always be brought directly to Methodist Health System Police by **calling 214-947-8899 or extension 7-8899**. This ensures a rapid law enforcement response when needed, alongside the broader support the Threat Assessment process provides.

Four Methodist hospitals earn 'A' for safety from The Leapfrog Group

Methodist Richardson, Methodist Charlton, Methodist Mansfield, and Methodist Southlake Medical Centers have all earned "A" safety grades this year from The Leapfrog Group, achieving the highest rating possible from the independent watchdog.

"Patient safety guides everything we do at Methodist," said President and Chief Operating Officer **Pam Stoyanoff**, MBA, CPA, FACHE. "We're so proud of each 'A' we achieved this spring. It's an honor to see our commitment to protecting patients consistently recognized by Leapfrog."

Leapfrog surveyors found that all four hospitals excelled at improving outcomes and protecting patients from harm.



Methodist Midlothian

Orthopedic team earns core certification

Methodist Midlothian earned its core certification in knee, hip, and shoulder replacement from The Joint Commission.

"This certification is a testament to the collaboration and dedication of our entire orthopedic team," said **Edward Mairura**, MD, orthopedic surgeon on the medical staff at Methodist Midlothian. "Our goal is always to provide precise, safe, and effective care that helps patients return to an active, pain-free life."

Surveyors found that the program meets rigorous national standards for clinical excellence, care coordination, and continuous performance improvement.



Methodist wins big at DFWHC Awards

Two Methodist employees and a member of the medical staff at Methodist Mansfield brought home prestigious recognitions for excellence, leadership, and service at this year's DFW Hospital Council Foundation Awards.

- Physician of the Year: **Nancy Georgekutty, MD**, (above) family and obesity medicine specialist on the medical staff at Methodist Mansfield
- Rex McRae Scholarship: **Sarah Birdwell**, a nursing student and patient care technician at Methodist Mansfield
- Special Recognition Award: **Rae Delgado**, BSN, RN, SCRNP, stroke coordinator at Methodist Charlton



Methodist Richardson Director of GI services earns Founders Medal

Rohan Jeyarajah, MD, FACS, has received the Founders Medal from The Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) for his longtime dedication and leadership in gastrointestinal surgery.

Dr. Jeyarajah is the director of gastrointestinal services and program director of the hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery fellowship at Methodist Richardson.

The SSAT is a global community leading the future of GI surgery through innovation, research, advocacy, and dissemination of knowledge to advance clinical excellence.



Methodist Mansfield New chief nursing officer takes over in Mansfield

Melissa Winans, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, has been appointed the new vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer at Methodist Mansfield.

Dr. Winans brings more than 30 years of nursing experience, including over a decade as a chief nursing officer in both community and academic healthcare settings.

Her leadership background spans women and infant services, critical care, stroke care, and inpatient rehabilitation, reflecting a strong clinical foundation paired with executive expertise.

Medical Milestones

Methodist Charlton

Cardiology team nearing 100th PFA procedure

The cardiology team at Methodist Charlton is nearing their 100th Pulse Field Ablation (PFA) since procedures began in March 2025.

Utilizing the FARAPULSE system by Boston Scientific, PFA offers a faster, more targeted ablation method that is often associated with improved safety compared with traditional techniques.

The milestone has been led by experienced electrophysiologists **David Levine, MD**, **Amit Guttigoli, MD**, and **Usama Daimee, MD, FACC, FHRS**, cardiologists on the medical staff at Methodist Charlton.



The program is supported by a dedicated EP team, including specialized nurses and a cardiovascular technologist.

Bedside Manners

When stress is too much, Methodist offers resources to beat burnout



Paul Lansdowne,
MD, CPE, CPXP
Chairman, Medical Staff
Wellness Committee

Methodist has many programs and initiatives in place to support the well-being of its medical staff — resources that are well worth exploring during Mental Health Awareness Month this May.

In a 2017 study, four out of 10 physicians said they were reluctant to seek help for their mental well-being. By adopting practices that minimize stigma and encourage workers to seek help when they need it, healthcare organizations can improve patient outcomes and ensure that healthcare workers feel that support.

Among the programs offered at Methodist is Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) — "psychological first aid" available to any member of the medical staff after stressful work events or adverse clinical outcomes.

Peer support is available for physicians and APPs, with virtual meetings held every Thursday at noon. Referrals to professional counselors are available, as well.

Please contact Pastoral Care for confidential support if you are in distress.

System: [Paul Lansdowne](#), MD, chair

Dallas: [Oluwadamilola Babaniji](#), DO
and [Lauren Hoffman](#), MD

Richardson: [Jenevieve Hughes](#), MD

Charlton: [Michael Finch](#), MD

The Credentials Committee is working with the Dr. Lorna Breen's Heroes Foundation to remove potentially stigmatizing language from credentials applications in order to make it easier for physicians and healthcare providers to seek and receive mental healthcare without fear of professional repercussions.

I would also like to introduce three new members of Methodist's new Medical Staff Wellness Committee, a group tasked with reducing burnout, improving work-life balance, and promoting professional satisfaction.

- **Michael Finch**, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Methodist Charlton
- **Lauren Hoffman**, MD, internal medicine specialist on the medical staff at Methodist Dallas
- **Miriam Torres**, MD, OB-GYN on the medical staff at Methodist Southlake

We want to hear from you about hospital workplace inefficiencies or obstacles to providing good care, and work with you to remove them. Please contact me or your campus representative with any suggestions.

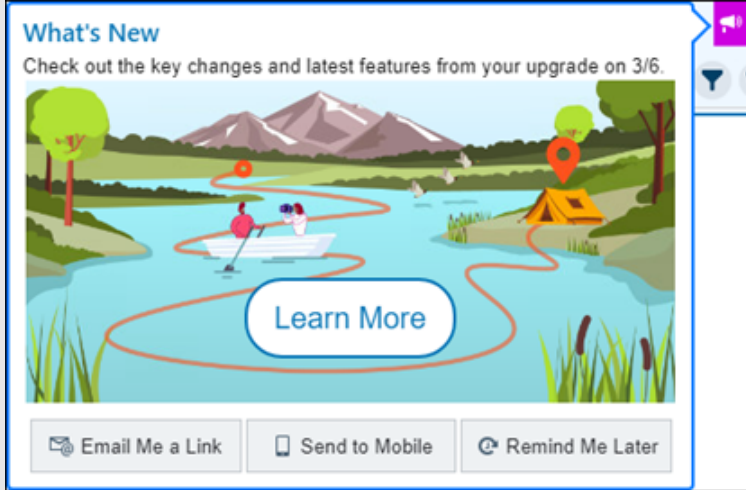
Mansfield: [Richard Miller](#), MD

Midlothian: [Benjamin Lo](#), MD

Southlake: [Miriam Torres](#), MD

Celina: [Swapna Katipally](#), MD,
and [Aritra Sen](#), MD

Epic Strides



What's New on Epic?

Epic has enhanced the way clinical staff learn about new features through the What's New feature.

What's New reminds users of an upcoming upgrade right within Epic, delivering content tailored to the changes that matter most to you based on your system usage. This allows for a more targeted experience.

Review the info when and where it's convenient for you. When you get a reminder in Hyperspace, you can choose to send it to an email inbox, and mobile app users can send it to a mobile device. If you don't have time to review the information, users can get a few reminders up to two weeks before and up to six weeks after the upgrade.

Summarize notes with AI assistance

Inpatient Insights uses AI to scan notes, labs, and flowsheet data and generates a concise, time-stamped "Patient Story Summary" that orients you to an admission.

Summaries include citations and a "recent events" section to show what changed since the last patient visit. Access Inpatient Insights from a patient's Summary Activity or from the Sidebar Summary.

Attend a Thrive efficiency workshop

Thrive sessions are hands-on efficiency workshops that help providers establish good efficiency habits and tailor their workspaces to support their personal workflows.

The outcome is reduced clicks, increased productivity, less time spent in the system, and more quality time with patients.

Epic Trainers are here, whenever there's a question — or a suggestion

The Epic Training team is always available to answer your questions and provide guidance on how to use Epic more efficiently.

We have a trainer posted at each campus to help with anything you may want to know about Epic, including taking your suggestions about how to improve clinical workflows in Epic for all physicians.

Dallas: 214-933-3742 (3-EPIC)
or EpicMDMC@mhd.com

Richardson: 469-204-3742 (4-EPIC)
or EpicMRMC@mhd.com

Charlton: 214-947-3742 (7-EPIC)
or EpicMCMC@mhd.com

Mansfield: 682-242-3742 (2-EPIC)
or EpicMMMC@mhd.com

Midlothian: 469-846-3742 (6-EPIC)
or EpicMLMC@mhd.com

Southlake: 682-335-3742 (5-EPIC)
or EpicMSMC@mhd.com

Celina: 945-677-8833
or EpicMCEL@mhd.com

Texas law prohibits hospitals from practicing medicine. The physicians on the Methodist Health System medical staff are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Methodist Health System.