



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Bucyrus and Galion Community Hospitals Make Strides in Stroke Care

GALION – January 9, 2012 – Patients who come to Bucyrus and Galion Community Hospital Emergency Departments with signs of a possible stroke will now be evaluated and treated quicker by advanced neurological technology and highly skilled stroke specialists. The kicker is, these stroke specialists are in Columbus, Ohio.

Using advanced telemedicine technology by way of a two-way video and audio system, emergency teams at Bucyrus and Galion Community Hospital are able to quickly connect with stroke specialists from OhioHealth facilities, such as Riverside Methodist Hospital or Grant Medical, in Columbus. This mobile device serves as an extra set of eyes and ears in real-time communication, providing valuable evaluation and support, and is the first network of its kind in Ohio.

“The system is amazing,” comments Jerry Morasko, CEO and President of Avita Health System. “Our local physicians and nurses can work side by side with stroke specialists in Columbus throughout the entire patient exam. These specialists can view CT scans, speak with family members, and even examine the patient’s pupils.”

Time is critical for stroke patients and a few hours can be the difference between a full recovery and permanent neurological damage. The ED staff at both hospitals have recently been trained on the administration of a clot-busting drug, which is very important in a stroke situation, and may be directed by the OhioHealth stroke specialist before a patient transfer. A transfer may be required if a patient’s condition requires a highly-specialized procedure, however the telemedicine system speeds up the entire transfer process which helps the patient become better sooner. The patient will be returned to either BCH or GCH where they will receive further treatment or rehabilitation.

“We’re fortunate to be able to partner with OhioHealth’s Stroke Network,” comments Morasko. “We’re all about increasing the chance of an improved outcome.”

For more information on Avita Health System services, visit www.avitahealth.org.

Photo attached: Registered Nurse, Vicki Bryson, GCH Emergency Department, demonstrates how physicians and nurses can be linked to stroke specialists in Columbus.

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