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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CLEVELAND CLINIC AKRON GENERAL OPENS  
EPILEPSY MONITORING UNIT**

*World Class Epilepsy Care is Now Closer to Home*

**Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, Akron:** Yesterday, Cleveland Clinic Akron General opened a new four-bed adult Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) to deliver state-of-the-art evaluation, diagnosis and monitoring of patients with epilepsy.

“Patients who traveled to Cleveland for epilepsy monitoring can now receive the same great care closer to home in our new Epilepsy Monitoring Unit,” said Brian Harte, M.D., President of Cleveland Clinic Akron General. “The EMU is an important addition to our medical center and continues our progress in enhancing care for the Akron community.”

The facility features the most advanced all-digital video EEG (electroencephalography) equipment available. Operating around the clock, the unit is staffed by a team of nurses, EEG technologists specializing in epilepsy and world-renowned epileptologists (board-certified neurologists with subspecialty training in epilepsy) from the Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Center, including Imad Najm, M.D., director of Cleveland Clinic’s Epilepsy Center. The team also includes specialists in neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, psychology and psychiatry, as well as a large group of specialized nurses, social workers and clinical technologists.

“We are excited to expand our epilepsy services to Akron General and the surrounding communities,” said Dr. Najm. “The Epilepsy Monitoring Unit has private rooms, which helps provide the ideal setting for us to monitor patients so that we can understand and diagnose their seizures accurately and design the best treatment plan.”

Patients are monitored throughout the day and night, both by EEG equipment to monitor brain activity and video cameras to record body movements during a seizure. The length of time patients spend in the unit varies but usually ranges from three to five days.

After monitoring is complete, the doctor will discuss the findings with the patient, explaining what treatment option is best. In addition, the case would be presented and discussed at the Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Center's multidisciplinary Patient Management Conference. Recommendations for additional testing or surgical resection will be discussed with the patient.

The new unit is connected to Cleveland Clinic's Central Monitoring Unit (CMU), one of the first in the world to serve as a live control center with EEG monitoring capability 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If a patient suffers a seizure, it will be immediately detected in the CMU and reported live to the nursing staff and clinical providers for a timely management of the patient.

A new outpatient epilepsy clinic also provides convenient access to Cleveland Clinic's Epilepsy Center, one of the largest and most comprehensive programs in the world for the evaluation, medical and surgical treatment of epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a neurological condition involving the brain that makes people more susceptible to having recurrent, unprovoked seizures. It is one of the most common disorders of the nervous system and affects people of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds. The Epilepsy Foundation estimates that 150,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed every year in the U.S. and more than 2 million Americans are living with the disorder.

For more information on Akron General's new EMU and outpatient epilepsy clinic, please call 330.344.3100 or visit [clevelandclinic.org/epilepsycenter](http://clevelandclinic.org/epilepsycenter).

#### **About Cleveland Clinic Akron General**

Cleveland Clinic Akron General is a nonprofit healthcare organization that has been improving the health and lives of the people and communities it serves since 1914. Akron General serves as the hub for Cleveland Clinic's Southern Region and includes a 532-registered-bed teaching and research medical center in downtown Akron; Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation; Akron General Partners, which includes Partners Physician Group; three Health & Wellness Centers; Lodi Hospital; Visiting Nurse Service; and Akron General Foundation. Recently, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Akron General Medical Center as the ninth best hospital in Ohio. For more information, visit [akrongeneral.org](http://akrongeneral.org).

#### **About Cleveland Clinic**

Cleveland Clinic is a nonprofit multispecialty academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. Located in Cleveland, Ohio, it was founded in 1921 by four renowned physicians with a vision of providing outstanding patient care based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation. Cleveland Clinic has pioneered many medical breakthroughs, including coronary artery bypass surgery and the first face transplant in the United States. *U.S. News & World Report* consistently names Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation's best hospitals in its annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey. Among Cleveland Clinic's 49,000 employees are more than 3,400 full-time salaried physicians and researchers and 14,000 nurses, representing 120 medical specialties and subspecialties. The Cleveland Clinic health system includes a 165-acre main campus near downtown Cleveland, nine community hospitals, more than 150 northern Ohio outpatient locations – including 18 full-service family health centers and three health and wellness centers – and locations in Weston, Fla.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Toronto, Canada; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and London, England. In 2015, there were 6.6 million outpatient visits, 164,700 hospital admissions and 208,807 surgical cases throughout the Cleveland Clinic health system. Patients came for treatment from every state and 180 countries. Visit us at [www.clevelandclinic.org](http://www.clevelandclinic.org). Follow us at [www.twitter.com/ClevelandClinic](https://www.twitter.com/ClevelandClinic).