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Medication Therapies Center Success Highlighted in Publication *Pharmacy Journal Notes Dramatic Patient Health Results*

Marysville, Ohio – Memorial Hospital's Medication Therapies Center has received national recognition for its cutting-edge patient clinics which are providing significant health improvements for its patients with chronic diseases. An article about the center appears in the September 15 edition of The American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy, published by the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists.

The article describes how Memorial Hospital's clinical pharmacists meet regularly with patients to evaluate which medications they are taking, and to ensure that there are no conflicts between them, Most are taking multiple prescriptions; some could be dangerous if not taken properly. The pharmacists may recommend changes, and assist patients with developing a customized schedule that maximizes the effectiveness of their medications. Each patient's physician receives a progress report following each visit.

The success of the Heart Failure Clinic, which currently involves 15 patients, is highlighted in the article. Five heart failure patients have been meeting with pharmacists at the clinic since it opened on October 2014. These patients had a total of 17 heart-failure-related readmissions to the hospital in the year before starting at the clinic. None of them – or patients who later joined – has returned to the hospital with heart issues since then.

“Our patients also receive counseling about lifestyle changes that will help them better manage their chronic diseases,” explains Britt Cummins, Director of Pharmacy at Memorial Hospital. “They, and their families, take an active role in adopting a healthy lifestyle, and this – combined with medication management – is resulting in excellent patient health benefits.”

Medication Therapies Center Recognized

Currently the Memorial Medication Therapies Center includes the: Medication Therapy Clinic, Anticoagulation Clinic, Heart Failure Clinic, and the Transitions of Care Clinic (for patients while they are hospitalized, and afterward). This fall, the center will open the first pharmacist-managed COPD Clinic in central Ohio. Additional clinics are planned to open in 2016. Clinical staff at other Memorial services also collaborate with those at the Medication Therapies Center for treatment of some patients.

Memorial Health is an independent health system based in Marysville, Ohio, which includes Memorial Hospital's main campus and satellite outpatient locations including Memorial City Gate Medical Center; Memorial Gables – a skilled nursing facility; Memorial Medical Group – a network of more than 20 physicians and mid-level providers with office locations throughout Marysville, Plain City, and Urbana; and the Memorial Health Foundation.

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