

A Win-Win

FOR smaller COMMUNITIES



PREMIER HEALTH PROVIDES ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED CARE FOR OUTLYING HOSPITALS.



TIMOTHY MARKUS, MD
Cardiologist



SCOT DENMARK, MD
Cardiac Surgeon

Vera Pleiman's heart was always on her mind. Rheumatic fever damaged the Versailles woman's heart as a child, requiring her to monitor her heart health indefinitely and eventually leading to the installation of a pacemaker in 2015. Just one year later, the once-avid golfer began to run out of energy.

"I was short of breath and had a weak pulse," says Vera. "I began to get weak and couldn't walk very far."

Timothy Markus, MD, Vera's cardiologist at Wayne HealthCare in Greenville, conducted an ultrasound that revealed aortic

stenosis, which restricts blood flow from the left ventricle of the heart to the aorta. Surgery was needed to replace the valve.

SPECIALIZED CARE, CONVENIENT RECOVERY

Thanks to the collaborative relationship Wayne HealthCare has with Premier Health, Dr. Markus could seamlessly connect Vera with cardiac surgeon Scot Denmark, MD, who performed her surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton. That relationship also allowed Vera to stay close to home for her cardiac rehabilitation following the surgery.

"There's a really good working relationship between Premier Health and outlying hospitals," says Dr. Markus. "I see patients in Wayne HealthCare all the time, and even have a consultative practice there."

"Going to Wayne for rehab was so much easier than making the long drive back to Dayton," says Vera. "I could even time my rehab sessions with follow-up appointments with Dr. Markus right across the street."

Vera's energy has returned and she looks forward to being back on the golf course very soon.

"Smaller hospitals don't always have access to specialists, so coordination is very important to meet the needs of patients like Ms. Pleiman," says Cheryl Gehret, RN (pictured on opposite page, on right), cardiac rehab and secondary prevention coordinator at Wayne HealthCare.

LIFE-SAVING TECHNOLOGY, CLOSE TO HOME

The introduction of Premier Health's telestroke network to Wayne HealthCare and Wilson Memorial Hospital in Sidney has made a critical difference for families in those communities.

"Telestroke allows emergency rooms to place specialists right at a patient's bedside over a direct audio and visual feed," says Elizabeth Marriott, MD (at bedside below), neurologist with the clinical neuroscience institute at Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine and Premier Health. "We can see the patient, cardiac monitor, and vital signs, and work with the nursing staff and emergency physicians to direct the patient's care."

Time is of the essence in stroke care, and telestroke has become a life-saving tool for neurologists and emergency personnel to overcome obstacles brought on by distance.

"If a patient comes in with stroke-like symptoms, we are

able to essentially provide the same level of care they would receive at Miami Valley Hospital. The technology is phenomenal," says David Buchanan, director of emergency services at Wilson Memorial Hospital. "This is all about the patient and doing what's right for them."

"This whole process has decreased the number of transfers from the initial hospital site where patients arrive to a hospital like Miami Valley," says Bryan Ludwig, MD (pictured on monitor below), chair of the clinical neuroscience institute at Premier Health. "It saves patients expense, time and stress. We can treat people with the exact same level of expertise, but we can do it right there in their backyard." ■



HAVE QUESTIONS?

if you or someone you know has MS, talk to your doctor about a referral to our center.