



# Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Weeks Medical Center partner for Telemedicine Services

LANCASTER — Weeks Medical Center is partnering with the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Connected Care to add new neurology and psychiatry telemedicine services for local patients.

Telemedicine allows patients to see a medical specialist through the use of video teleconference and specially designed monitoring equipment without having to travel far from home. The services use a live, two-way secure video connection on large format, high-definition equipment, where patients and Weeks medical staff connect with specialists at Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

In the emergency room or an inpatient setting, the teleneurology and telepsychiatry service enables prompt assessment and treatment by neurologists or psychiatrists at locations such as Weeks that do not have round-the-clock in-person coverage. With

these telemedicine services Weeks Medical Center provides its patients with assessment and treatment recommendations via 24/7 real-time emergency and non-emergency consultations, and will help reduce transfers and keep patients closer to home.

“We’re pleased to enhance our telemedicine services through our partnership with Dartmouth-Hitchcock,” said Mike Lee, president of Weeks Medical Center. “The goal of telemedicine is to improve the quality of care at Weeks and provide better outcomes for patients while keeping that care local. Telemedicine also helps reduce the cost associated with care for both the patient and the hospital. It also saves patients time and money in travel and lost work hours. Our partnership with Dartmouth-Hitchcock allows us to bring the highest-quality specialty services, such as neurology and psychiatry, to

our patients where they currently don’t exist.”

“The goal of Dartmouth-Hitchcock’s Center for Telehealth is to help deliver outstanding care to our region independent of patient location,” said Kevin Curtis, MD, medical director of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Connected Care. “We are thrilled to add neurology and psychiatry to the robust telemedicine collaboration that already exists between Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Weeks Medical Center.”

Telemedicine services currently available at Weeks through Dartmouth-Hitchcock include dermatology, rheumatology, chronic kidney disease and stroke care. Procedure clinic nurses from Weeks are specially trained in telemedicine services and procedures. These service providers act as the local hands, eyes and ears for the specialist on the other end of the teleconference.



Front, from left, Janet Nickerson, Debi Davis and Sue Solar of Badger Realty Rear deliver Badger Bears for newborns to the staff at Androscoggin Valley Hospital. Back row: Deb Alonzo, RN, director of women services at AVH; Roland Turgeon and Don Lapointe of Badger Realty; and Rebecca Woodward, RN. (COURTESY PHOTO)

## Hospital newborns to receive Badger Bears

BERLIN — For the second year in a row, Badger Realty North is proudly delivering “Badger Bears” to all newborns at Androscoggin Valley Hospital.

These soft, sweet bears were originally the brain-child of Badger Realty North office liaison, Rhonda Lapointe, who felt it was a great way to recognize children born at AVH and welcome them into the community.

Lapointe approached Badger Realty Managing Partner Brenda Leavitt with her idea, and the two agreed that this was a new tradition to begin.

According to Lapointe, the program is well received at the hospital.

“My sister, Rebecca Woodward, is on staff at AVH, and she continually tells me stories about how happy

the families are to be gifted with our Badger Bears. Unlike the first baby of the year, which receives unique ‘First Baby’ gifts, this program ensures that all children born at AVH will receive a small, yet meaningful, gift from our Badger family to theirs.”

The Badger Bears are doing their job, delighting the staff at Androscoggin Valley Hospital, who, according to Woodward, “think they are really cute, and the staff is very happy to be able to give them out to each newborn. Parents very much like getting the bears from us, and often comment on how adorable they are.”

In addition to sponsoring the Badger Bears, Badger Realty North hosts the annual holiday event each December, as a way to show our appreciation for welcoming us to the area.

## Summit by Morrison to Host Job Fair on March 21

### Senior living community looking to fill variety of job positions ahead of opening

WHITEFIELD — Summit by Morrison will host a job fair on Wednesday, March 21, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Morrison Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care facility at 6 Terrace St., in Whitefield.

Summit by Morrison is a new senior living community in Whitefield featuring independent living, assisted living and memory support residences in one community. Slated to open later this spring, Summit is looking to fill many positions.

“We are gearing up for a spring opening and working to fill a variety of positions as we prepare to welcome residents to Summit by Morrison,” said Chad Dingman, chief executive officer of Summit by Morrison and The Morrison Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care. “We are looking for compassionate, service-minded people who want to be part of our new senior living community.”

Summit by Morrison is looking to fill care provider positions, as well as positions in food service,

# Researchers launch telehealth program for pregnant women with substance use disorders

DURHAM — Leading experts from the University of New Hampshire's Institute for Health Policy and Practice are joining forces with several New England health-care partners to offer a program that equips providers in some of the most rural areas with the education and support needed to help pregnant women with substance-use disorders, as well as their newborns. As the opioid crisis becomes an increasing public health issue, this new tele-health program called Project ECHO hopes to provide valuable information to those who need it most. ECHO stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes.

"Research has long pointed to perinatal substance exposure, like alcohol, smoking and drugs, as both a challenge and an opportunity for improving maternal health and associated birth outcomes in New Hampshire," said David Laflamme, research assistant professor at the University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire's maternal and child health epidemiologist. "Recent data indicates that in the last three months of pregnancy more than 10 percent of women in N.H. smoke and 10 percent drink alcohol. This project offers a much needed innovative and common-sense approach to support front line health care providers at the time and place where it will be most helpful."

Through a tele-health format, participating health-care providers from Aroostook County in Maine, northern and central New Hampshire, and southern Vermont will have access to behavioral health experts who will help identify clinical strategies, screening tools, resources and emerging topics in the fields of perinatal care and substance use disorders treatment. They will also share learning on challenging cases through case-based clinical tele-conferences.

"We are excited to bring the Project ECHO model to New Hampshire, and to have our first session focus on a topic of such concern to our state's health-care providers," said Jeanne Ryer, director of the N.H. Citizens Health Initiative.

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maintenance and housekeeping and office management, including: receptionist, equipment/facilities technician, overnight support services technician, residential aide, residential activities aide, Licensed Nursing assistant, activities aide, housekeepers, cooks, dishwashers, dining servers and dining bussers/runners.

Both full- and part-time positions are available, and all positions require flexibility as weekend and overnight shifts are necessary. People who are interested in joining the Summit by Morrison team should bring a resume and proof of identity to the job fair. Hiring

"Unlike traditional telemedicine, where remote specialists assume the care of patients, this program lets experts teach and mentor clinicians, allowing them to care for patients in their community, while gaining more targeted knowledge and skills."

"In a time when the opioid crisis seems to show no signs of slowing down, we're proud to be part of an essential and innovative service that can help address behavioral health issues like substance use disorders in every corner of New Hampshire," said Michael Ferrara, dean of the College of Health and Human Services at UNH. "This is just another step in UNH's efforts to increase access to better health-care through leading-edge programs."

The model for the project was developed by Project ECHO: Northern New England Network, a tri-state tele-health collaborative serving New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, which is a joint effort of the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative at the University of New Hampshire's Institute for Health Policy and Practice, Maine Quality Counts, Vermont Program for Quality in Healthcare, Northeast Tele-health Resource Center, Maine Area Health Education Center, University of New England, New Hampshire Area Health Education Center, and the University of Vermont Office of Primary Care & Area Health Education Center. The project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The N.H. Citizens Health Initiative is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort that promotes health systems transformation in New Hampshire to improve the health of New Hampshire's population, in line with the Triple Aim of better health, better care and lower costs.

The Institute for Health Policy and Practice conducts and disseminates high-quality, cutting-edge applied research and policy work that enables health system partners to implement evidence-based strategies to improve population health.

managers will be available to review applicants' credentials and discuss open positions and job responsibilities.

Summit by Morrison is a first-of-its-kind senior living community in New Hampshire's North Country. The community will offer multiple residence options for seniors who wish to live independently and remain within the community as their needs change including: 14 independent living cottages, 33 independent living apartments, 24 assisted living apartments and 12 apartments for residents who may need memory support. For additional information about careers at Summit by Morrison and the upcoming job fair, go to [summitbymorrison.org/careers/](http://summitbymorrison.org/careers/).

## Health Insurance Marketplace



Did you receive help paying for insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace in 2017?

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For more information, contact Brandon 752-3669 at CCFHS.

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