Bristol Hospital Celebrates The Opening Of Its New Center For Wound Care And Hyperbaric Medicine

BRISTOL, Conn.—Bristol Hospital officially opened its new Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony on Nov. 11. The center is equipped with two hyperbaric treatment chambers, and offers advanced healing therapies, proven clinical protocols, individual patient treatment plans and a disease-management approach to healing wounds that have resisted conventional treatment.

The Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine is the new location of the Bristol Hospital Wound Care Program which was previously located at the Bristol Hospital Wellness Center on Clark Avenue. Construction of the 2600-square-foot wound care center began in April and it is located on the north side of the main Bristol Hospital building just adjacent to the Bradley Street employee parking area.

“Here at the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, we have a wonderful team of physicians and wound care specialists who offer a full continuum of care through our hospital services and proactive, cost-effective, case management,” said Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, president and CEO of Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group Inc. “The center provides a significant service to the community and offers the most modern technology for our patients. Such changes and upgrades are necessary in this highly-competitive age of health care.”

Wound care professionals specialize in the treatment of patients with chronic and non-healing wounds, and include physicians, nurses and other health care professionals such as podiatrists, surgeons and physical therapists. The two hyperbaric chambers can accommodate a bariatric patient and have a fully integrated entertainment system.

“Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a treatment in which the patient breathes 100 percent pure oxygen while inside a pressurized chamber,” said general surgeon Daniel Scoppetta, MD, FACS, medical director of the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine. “The air pressure inside a hyperbaric oxygen chamber is about two and a half times greater than the normal pressure in the atmosphere. This high pressure dose of oxygen helps the blood carry more oxygen to organs and connective tissues to promote wound healing.”

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Dr. Scoppetta added that in addition to having hyperbaric therapy available, the wound care program includes the various components of wound and lymphedema expertise under one roof. Lymphedema is a physical therapy treatment that was introduced into the United States in the mid-1970s.

Lymphedema treatment is based on applying pressure in a set of specific hand motions directly onto the patient’s swollen lymph nodes and thereby reducing congestion of the fluid thereby bringing relief to the patient. Many patients can avoid costly therapies for wound care and actually prevent wounds from occurring by having this lymphedema therapy.

For more information on the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine at Bristol Hospital, please call 860.585.3397.

Shown at the ribbon cutting for Bristol Hospital’s new Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine include (from left): Rep. Whit Betts, (R-Bristol); Sheila Kempf, RN, PhD, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer, Bristol Hospital; Bristol Mayor Ken Cockayne; Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, president and CEO, Bristol Hospital; Daniel Scoppetta, MD, FACS, medical director of the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine; Marie O’Brien, chairman of the Bristol Hospital Board of Directors, and Kristopher Jones, RN, director of the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine.