



The Vantage Healthcare Owner Hospitals:

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital
Kittanning

Corry Memorial Hospital (CMH)
Corry

DuBois Regional Medical Center
DuBois

Kane Community Hospital (KCH)
Kane

Meadville Medical Center (MMC)
Meadville

Millcreek Community Hospital (MCH)
Erie

Saint Vincent Health System (SVHS)
Erie

The Ellwood City Hospital (TECH)
Ellwood City

Titusville Area Hospital (TAH)
Titusville

UPMC Horizon
Greenville/Farrell

UPMC Northwest
Seneca

Warren General Hospital (WGH)
Warren



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497 S. Hermitage Rd.
Hermitage, PA 16148
(724) 346-4640



Meadville, PA
11031 Perry Highway
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 333-9449

Seneca, PA
3199A State Route 257
Seneca, PA 16346
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Contact Tom Surman: tomsurman@vantagehealthcare.com for free direct mail newsletter subscription.



Vantage® Holding Company, LLC
A For Profit Company that Forms Health Care Partnerships to Create Revenue, Savings and New Services

October, November, December 2005



New Technology Added to the Vantage® Mobile Fleet

Vantage® Mobile Services, (VMS), provides a variety of mobile diagnostic imaging and treatment services including MRI, CT, Bravo, RFA, and also has a strong presence in the urology field with mobile lithotripsy. This quarter, VMS added to its services PET/CT, taking delivery on the region's first Mobile GE Discovery ST 16 slice PET/CT scanner.

PET/CT is an imaging procedure that provides physicians with information about the body's chemistry, cell function and exact location of disease. The precise images obtained with PET are not available with other technologies, such as CT, MRI or x-ray alone. The difference lies in the ability of PET to study body function rather than giving radiological images of anatomy or body structure.

The combination of the metabolic information from PET and the anatomic information from CT, places PET/CT at the forefront to cutting edge technology allowing physicians to more accurately stage and treat patient disease processes.

The indications for PET/CT include:

- Characterize Single Pulmonary Nodules
- Provide staging and restaging information for:
 - Non Small Cell Lung Cancer
 - Colorectal Cancer
 - Lymphoma
 - Esophageal Cancer
 - Head and Neck Cancer
 - Melanoma



Operating the new PET/CT is Carrie Pappal, RN, BSN and Susan Santiago, MBA, CNMT

- Provide staging, restaging and therapy monitoring for Breast Cancer
- Restaging of Thyroid Cancer
- Initial staging Cervical Cancer when conventional imaging is negative (-) for extra-pelvic metastasis
- Pre-surgical localization of seizure focus
- Differentiation of recurrent Brain Tumor vs. scar tissue
- Differentiation of Alzheimer's Disease vs. FTD
- Evaluation of Myocardial Viability

VMS understands the difficulties associated with providing mobile service to healthcare organizations. A multitude of dilemmas can arise at any time with regards to equipment (both trailer and scanner), maintenance, transport, scheduling isotopes, scheduling patients and patient care. "We have procedures in place to negate and/or diffuse issues that may otherwise severely impact both the hospital and patient. VMS believes in taking a proactive approach to the provision of healthcare not a reactive approach. We have assembled a PET/CT services management team capable of understanding the changing nature of healthcare and able to adapt to a fluid market." stated Bill Henwood, Senior VP Vantage Mobile Services.

Cover Story continued on page 3

www.vantagehealthcare.com



Quarterly

The Vantage® Point

What's News



DR. ANIL DUTT

Dr. Anil Dutt, M.D., FACS, General Surgeon joins Titusville Surgical Associates.

Dr. Dutt received his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and completed his residency training at Booth Memorial Medical Center (now The New York Hospital Center of Queens). Dr. Dutt is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Medical Association, American Hernia Society and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. He is certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army where he had the rank of major, and served as Chief of General Surgery at Noble Army Hospital in Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Dr. Dutt, a Board Certified General Surgeon, can be reached at (814) 827-3400 and the office is located at 150 West Central Avenue in Titusville.



Vantage® Mobile Services expands its mobile services fleet by adding PET/CT. This new integrated system combines Positron Emission Tomography (PET) with Computed Tomography to generate a 3D whole body image. The new GE Discovery ST, 16 slice system, provides physicians with more sensitivity, speed, resolution and diagnostic confidence when treating cancer patients. Vantage will be initially offering this service to numerous hospitals through-out the tri-state region. To accommodate the growth in the Mobile Services area, Bill Henwood, Senior VP of Mobile Services, announced the appointment of three new people to the work force.

Vantage Mobile Services will continue to offer quality MRI, Urological, Bravo, and RFA services to hospitals. For more information call 800-715-1214 (See Cover Story)



Vantage® Mobile Services

Quality MRI, Urological, PET/CT, CT and RFA Services for Hospitals



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UPMC NORTHWEST TO OPEN CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION UNIT

Hospital's first interventional cardiologist will perform procedures in new facility



Dr. Nattapong Sricharoen, MD

UPMC Northwest's first interventional cardiologist has joined the hospital medical staff and its new Cardiac Catheterization Unit will open soon. Both the practice of medical/interventional cardiologist Nattapong Sricharoen, MD – or Dr. Nat, as he is known – and the cardiac catheterization lab are components of the new UPMC Cardiovascular Institute at UPMC Northwest. The institute makes UPMC Northwest part of UPMC's cardiac care program that is recognized both nationally and internationally as a center of cardiac diagnostic, treatment, and research excellence.

The presence of Dr. Nat and the opening of the new unit will allow UPMC Northwest to offer cardiac catheterization for the first time, so many patients can undergo this advanced cardiac diagnostic exam locally instead of traveling to an out-of-town hospital.

"Dr. Nat is a great addition to our cardiac care team, and the new unit is an excellent addition to our cardiac diagnostic capabilities," says UPMC Northwest president Neil Todhunter. "We now have more advanced cardiac care services than ever." Dr. Nat is board certified in internal medicine and cardiology. His special interest is diagnosing and treating obstructive coronary artery disease. The doctor's office telephone number is 814-676-5726.



UPMC
Northwest

Feature Company of the Quarter -



We are the Future, Now...

Multimedia Communication Server (MCS) 5100

Vantage® Health Group Telecommunications (HGT) with Saint Vincent Health System (SVHS) Roll out New Technology

A doctor in Erie performs surgery while being watched in real-time by a professor in another city. A nurse making rounds in Titusville gets an instant message (IM) from a terminally ill patient. A physician in Pittsburgh uses his Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) to instantly access online medical information at his patient's bedside. These scenarios are emerging in healthcare and actively being engaged by HGT in concert with SVHS providing multimedia solutions in support of virtual healthcare delivery.

HGT, in partnership with Nortel Networks, has recently installed MCS 5100, a new tier of technology into its existing Constellation Model. HGT's Constellation Model currently connects multiple users, facilities and devices simultaneously, and with remarkable efficiency and clarity. Located in Erie, this system is powered by Internet Protocol Technology and connected by fiber optic cables that replaced yesterday's analog lines.

The MCS 5100 allows institutions to communicate and collaborate anytime, anywhere, using a desktop PC, laptop computer, wireless device, or wireline phone providing the flexibility needed to deliver multimedia communications to stationary and mobile professionals.

The HGT System has collaboration capabilities such as instant messaging, white-boarding, and multi-point video conferencing capabilities. IP enables members to take advantage of the full capabilities, regardless of their geographic location. This new system which will be the standard in years to come is now available, offering the breadth, flexibility and completeness needed when it comes to end-to-end IP and multimedia solutions.

For additional HGT information contact:
Jeff Scarpitti- jeff@hgt1.com 814-871-4481

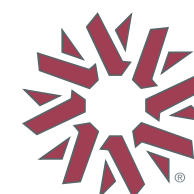
For additional Information on Vantage Holding Company, LLC® go to
www.vantagehealthcare.com



Adam Wagner from Softek doing HGT network conversions for the Nortel MCS 5100 install at Saint Vincent Health System



HGT's Jeff Scarpitti with the new Nortel Switch located at Saint Vincent Health System



Vantage® Health Group Telecommunications
Next Generation Telecommunications Services



(Mitral Valve Continued)

Focus on Quality: Higher Volumes Mean Better Outcomes

The surgeons at Saint Vincent perform twice as many heart procedures as other surgeons in the region, making a successful recovery significantly more likely. According to the most recent PHC4 report, patients treated by surgeons who performed 200-250 open heart surgeries per year were twice as likely to survive after bypass surgery as patients of surgeons who do fewer than 100 procedures per year. Dr. Holland performed 272 open heart procedures during the latest PHC4 annual reporting period, more than twice that of any other surgeon reported.



(see page 3, Doctor of the Month)

Disc Decompression Changes Back Care

MMC offers a quick, painless alternative to herniated disc surgery

Eighty percent of Americans will experience back pain at some point in their lives, making it the number two reason patients visit their doctor, according to the American Chiropractic Association. Although low back pain can have many causes, frequently the problem is due to a contained herniated disc. Also known as a "slipped disc," "bulging disc," or "pinched nerve," more than 250,000 Americans undergo surgery to remove or repair herniated discs each year.



DISC Nucleoplasty, or disc decompression, is a minimally invasive outpatient procedure now being used at MMC as an alternative to open surgery. Quick and painless, this procedure allows patients to walk out of the procedure room in less than an hour with only a small bandage on their back. According to Anthony Colantonio, M.D., pain management specialist and director of MMC's Department of Comprehensive Pain Care, "Disc decompression is a very useful treatment option for select patients with lower back and leg pain. We've had excellent results with our patients."

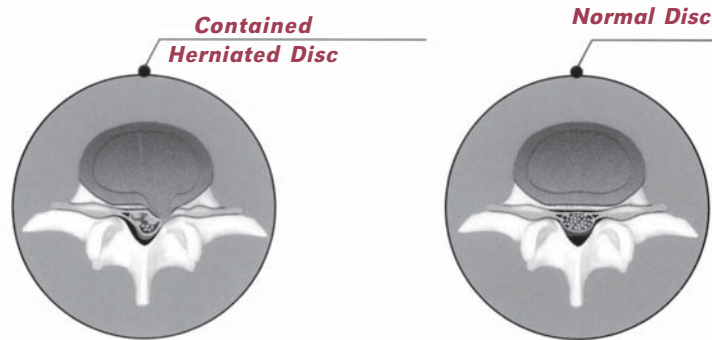
For some patients, the pain that invades their lower back and/or legs due to a herniated disc can be relieved by rest, medication, injections or physical therapy. Unfortunately, this is not always effective. In the past, those patients who did not respond to conservative treatments were forced to consider major back surgery which entailed weeks or months of recovery time. Significant medical advancements including the development of disc decompression now gives patients a minimally invasive alternative.

For the procedure, the patient is first given a local anesthetic, then, a needle is inserted into the center of the herniated disc. The needle emits radio waves that dissolve excess tissue, reducing the size of the bulge in the disc. This relieves the pressure inside the disc and also on the nerves. In a significant percentage of patients this procedure provides a meaningful improvement in symptoms, thereby improving their quality of life.



Anthony Colantonio, M.D., director of MMC's Department of Comprehensive Pain Care, prepares to perform a disc decompression procedure.

For more information contact: Dr. Colantonio, Department of Comprehensive Pain Care, 1034 Grove St., Meadville, PA 16335 Ph. 814-333-5736



Collectively, Vantage® PET/CT management has more than 50 years of healthcare experience. While Vantage® is a for profit business, it is a business operating in the medical arena. As such, management will continue to focus on the provision of quality patient care services and customer satisfaction. In a recent interview with Carrie Pappal, RN, BSN and Director of PET Clinical and Business Development, she said, "We gauge our success on achieving our goals in the areas of patient care standards, meeting the needs of the patients, physicians and community. It is the feedback from our patients, clients, employees and referring physicians that set the standards for our improvement initiatives. We firmly believe that this focus on quality and customer satisfaction rather than profits alone separates us from other service providers. VMS experience, dedication and local presence will create a successful and effective working relationship, mutually beneficial to all parties and to all of the communities we serve."



The Vantage® PET/CT service, the "AdVantage Plus Program", is a "turn-key" approach that provides the facility with an all inclusive package which includes:

- The newest technology available
• Screening / Scheduling / medical pre-screening and confirmation
• A staffing model inclusive of both a CNMT and a RN
• Radiopharmaceuticals
• Regulatory oversight
• Physician and community education
• Consultation and Training
• No minimum exam requirements



The Vantage® team looks forward to the opportunity to discuss further this exciting project. For more information on the Vantage® PET/CT AdVantage Plus service please contact:

Carrie Pappal, RN, BSN, Director of PET, Clinical and Business Development Vantage® Healthcare 412-309-0044 (or) carriep@vantagehealthcare.com

Doctor of the Month

Dr. Fred W. Holland, II, MD



In a single surgery on a winter day in 2004, the surgical team in the operating room at Saint Vincent saw something rarely seen in healthcare. One physician successfully performed five procedures on a single patient. That surgeon was Fred W. Holland, II, MD.

Dr. Holland, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Saint Vincent since 2002, in 2003 performed 272 open-heart procedures – more than twice that of any other surgeon in Northwest Pennsylvania. In fact, he was ranked fifth among the very elite heart surgeons in the state.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Perdue University and his MD from Indiana University School of Medicine, both in Indianapolis. He completed his postgraduate training at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo, the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute in Bethesda, MD, Albany Medical Center and The University of Miami.

He is certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners, is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. He affiliated with the American College of Surgeons and the Andrew G. Morrow Society of Cardiovascular Surgeons, and is an Associate Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Holland has been published as the author and co-author in numerous medical publications and has presented at several national medical conferences. Contact: Consultants in Cardiovascular Disease, Inc., 311 W. 24th Street, Suite 401, Erie, PA 16502, 814-453-7767.





Vantage® Advocacy Continues Fight to Maintain Medicaid Funding for Home Infusion Patients

Local Legislators Providing Needed Support

by John Fries

For several months, Vantage® has been crusading tirelessly to ensure that the more than 150 homebound patients served by Vantage® Home Infusion Services, as well as home infusion patients statewide, will continue to be covered by Medicaid under the State budget. Last June, House members unanimously voted against a budget proposed by Gov. Ed Rendell in which the State, under its Medicaid program, did not include a separate benefit for Home Infusion Therapy. The proposed budget would have ended the ability of home infusion therapy providers to service Medicaid patients, resulting in their shift to much more costly hospital settings.

The drug therapies managed by Vantage® involve the administration of medications using the intravenous, subcutaneous, and epidural routes (into the bloodstream, under the skin and into membranes surrounding the spinal cord). Drug therapies commonly administered via home infusion include antibiotics, chemotherapy, pain management, parenteral nutrition and immune globulin. Under the governor's proposed plan, Medicare beneficiaries would likely have limited or denied access to home infusion therapies needed to treat infections, cancer and cancer related pain, gastrointestinal diseases, congestive heart failure, immune disorders and more.

Vantage® Receiving Legislative Support

Vantage® has been gaining considerable momentum in its ongoing initiative to maintain an appropriate level of Medicaid and Medicare funding for home infusion patients. Among the elected officials supporting the initiative are State Rep. Rod Wilt and U.S. Congressman Phil English. Wilt serves Greenville and Meadville, and English represents the state's Third District, comprised of Erie County and parts of Armstrong, Butler, Crawford, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties).

"They are helping us tremendously," says Mary Jo Hunter, Vice President of Vantage® Home Infusion Services. "They understand that providing a higher level of reimbursement for home care will actually result in dramatic savings overall by decreasing the need for more costly hospital and long-term care."

In May, English and fellow U.S. Congressman Chip Pickering of Mississippi sent a letter to Mark McClelland,

Administrator at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In it, they expressed concern about the proposed Medicare Part D benefit and urged CMS to consider consolidating home infusion therapy coverage as a medical benefit that encompasses all components of therapy. According to the letter, the CMS definition of coverage ignores the need



Rod E. Wilt, PA House of Representatives, receives first hand inspection of the ISO Class 6 Clean Room from Mary Jo Hunter, Pharm D and Vice President of Vantage® Home Infusion Therapy Services



Lisa Hershelman, Director of Respiratory and Sleep Services, demonstrates to Vantage® Sr. VP Home Care, Tom Sedlak, and PA Congressman, Phil English, some of the latest technology in liquid oxygen therapy available at the Vantage® Durable Medical Equipment stores.



for the professional services, supplies and equipment required for the safe provision of home infusion therapy. Because of this, significant gaps in coverage will limit and even deny access to patients who require the therapy.

Hunter concurs. "People feel more comfortable and experience better healing in their home environment when surrounded by family members. If providers only pay for the drugs, and not the necessary services and supplies, the reality is patients won't have access to the level of care they really need."

Vantage® will continue to work closely with legislators on efforts to maintain benefits for home infusion patients. "Representative Wilt suggested we hold town hall meetings in various parts of Vantage's® service area this fall and winter to give patients and their family members the opportunity to speak about why home infusion therapy is essential to their well-being," says Hunter. "Local and State legislators will be invited to attend."



Congressman, Phil English, with Randy Poulson, Vantage® Sr. VP DME Operations. While visiting the Vantage® warehouse, Randy explains the behind the scenes process of cleaning, sterilizing, tracking and preventive maintenance to all non-reimbursable equipment.



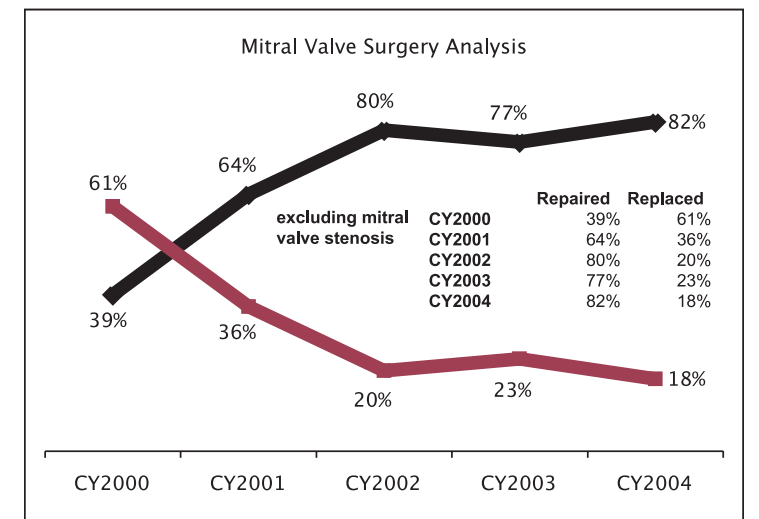
The Vantage® Forum

where owner hospitals highlight their services



Mitral Valve Repair vs. Replacement

Saint Vincent cardiac surgeons correct heart valve problems with quality of life after surgery in mind. That's why their focus is on repairing rather than replacing a patient's heart valve. Valve repair eliminates the need for very expensive blood-thinners and reduces the risk of infection. When repairing the heart valve is not a viable option, a patient may need to have their valve replaced. When replacement is necessary, homografts (donor valves), mechanical and other types of valves are used. The Saint Vincent Heart Center is one of only 10 sites in the country using "tissue" valves. Saint Vincent surgeons prefer to repair patients' valves versus replacing them, because of the significant patient benefits. Nationally only 64% of mitral valves are repaired. At Saint Vincent, their highly skilled and experienced cardiac surgeons are able to repair 82%.



Continued on page 6