State of the Hospital: An Update to the Community on Jupiter Medical Center

By John Couris, CEO
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In America’s turbulent health care environment, “certainty” is in short supply. The nation’s health care delivery system is poised for transformational change, spurred by federal budget pressures and the need for fundamental reform.

For Jupiter Medical Center and hospitals across the U.S., the next few years will be both exciting and daunting. As Boomers age and demographics shift, hospitals must keep pace. Declining Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements challenge us to do more with less.

Against this backdrop, it’s important for the community to know that Jupiter Medical Center has taken many steps to ensure it can provide “certainty” – certainty that the hospital will be able to meet the community’s needs, will continue to deliver world-class care and will be here for future generations.

In short, Jupiter Medical Center is well positioned to be among the hospitals that will thrive, with clarity of vision, purpose and focus. We continue to evolve as a patient-centered environment, where people work in high-performing teams to fulfill our commitment of bringing world-class health care close to home. Today, the hospital provides services on par with many of our nation’s top academic medical centers. The many national accreditations we’ve achieved validate that we are a trusted source for world-class health care.

Anticipating change, we have taken key steps in recent years to advance our systems, infrastructure and scope of services. The Emergency Department was recently expanded, a new Cardiac Catheterization Lab is now open, and we initiated the Walsh Robotic Surgery Center of Excellence, led by Medical Director Dr. Donna Pinelli, which focuses on Gynecologic/Oncologic, Gynecologic/Fertility, Gynecologic, Thoracic, General and Urologic Surgery.

Jupiter Medical Center’s nationally-accredited Comprehensive Breast Care Program, which encompasses the Kristin Hoke Breast Health Program, led by Medical Director Dr. John A.P. Rimmer, and the Margaret W. Niedland Breast Center, led by Chief of Radiology Dr. Lee Fox, was the first program in Palm Beach and Martin counties to be recognized for its quality by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. The Niedland Breast Center is the only facility in Palm Beach and Martin counties to offer Tomosynthesis, a state-of-the-art imaging technology that provides 3 dimensional views of the breast to increase diagnostic accuracy and find breast cancer at an earlier stage. In addition, the facility will also install a state-of-the-art bone density DEXA system, breast ultrasound units with elastography capability, positron emission mammography (PEM), which detects breast lesions as small as a grain of rice, and breast MRI, with a wide bore design to reduce anxiety and claustrophobia.
Most recently, Jupiter Medical Center launched the area’s only truly comprehensive lung cancer program, under the leadership of Medical Director Dr. K. Adam Lee. The Thoracic Surgery and Lung Center is dedicated to prevention, early detection, treatment and care of patients with lung cancer and other diseases of the chest and lung. It offers a CT Lung Screening Program, Lung Nodule Clinic, and minimally-invasive Robotic Assisted Thoracic Surgery and Video Assisted Thorascopic Surgery.

Our well-established Daniel C. Searle Clinical Trials Patient Access Program has flourished, with three full time team members dedicated to providing research trials to our community. Since its inception, the program offered close to 50 clinical trials, with 16 trials currently open. Most recently, Jupiter Medical Center teamed up with Scripps Florida to conduct research on human cancer tissue.

Aside from the latest medical diagnostic and treatment options we offer our community, what sets us apart from other hospitals is our team members. We call them team members, not employees, because we are all on the same team, working toward the same goals. We share the same values, mission and vision. It is our people that really make a difference, and it’s our people that make each one of our service lines come alive. Last year, Jupiter Medical Center was one of only four hospitals nationally to receive the Laureate Award for Workplace Enhancement from the Jackson Group, a national surveying company for team member satisfaction. The award, which JMC received for the second consecutive survey period, is the highest single award the Jackson Group gives for team member satisfaction, which speaks volumes about the work culture at Jupiter Medical Center.

Financially strong and stable, the Jupiter Medical Center Foundation launched a $50 million capital campaign last year that will allow us to both create transformational change and provide certainty of care well into the future. With exceptional donor support, that campaign is well on its way. We are currently in the midst of the single largest expansion in the hospital’s history, renovating and building a total of 116,000 square feet of space to proactively meet the challenges of healthcare reform and the needs of the community.

The first phase of the expansion, which is currently underway, is the construction of the Raso Education Center, which will create an environment for educating the community on health and wellness through lectures and workshops, as well as a venue to train team members and physicians. This facility will also be a place where we train physicians from other healthcare organizations throughout the region and engage them in medical education and research.

Focused on our community’s future, a $10 million donation from the Lawrence and Florence De George Trust kicked off our capital campaign to help create the new, 76,000-square-foot Florence A. De George Pavilion. The new building will dedicate its third floor to children’s and women’s services. With healthcare reform looming, and the focus on bundled payments for musculoskeletal services, Jupiter Medical Center is taking a proactive approach to create a single patient experience, from admission to discharge, for our orthopedic and spine patients. The new building, which will connect to the existing hospital structure, will devote its second floor to The Anderson Family Orthopedic and Spine Center, a program that is already among Palm Beach County’s best. Patients will experience a ‘closed-loop’ hospital stay, where surgery, dining and rehabilitation all occur on the same floor. The first floor will consist of a new cafeteria, kitchen, patient discharge suite and administrative offices.
And the final phase of construction will be the renovation of about 50,000 square-feet in the main facility. When it’s all said and done, we will have added approximately 75-100 new jobs to the community. We’re centering this expansion project on specific strategies as health care reform takes hold, and specific needs within the community.

In addition to the jobs created through the expansion of the hospital, another 150 net new jobs will be added to the community through JMC’s innovative collaboration with NuVista Living to develop NuVista’s $70 million Institute for Healthy Living, Life Science and Research (NIHL), a continuing care senior community in Abacoa. This world-class facility is focused on a continuum of care for our community members.

Since its founding over 30 years ago, Jupiter Medical Center has been a source of compassionate, world-class care – a resource our area’s residents can count on. The well-planned, transformational changes underway along with the community’s informed involvement in key decisions will help ensure that we can provide the much needed “certainty” for our community’s future.

We deeply appreciate your support and will continue to work hard each and every day to maintain your confidence and trust, and remain Palm Beach County’s top-rated hospital (US News & World Report), and your top choice in Palm Beach County for likelihood to recommend (hospitalcompare.hhs.gov).