



**Licking Memorial
Health Systems**

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Please take a few minutes to read this month's Report on **Surgical Care**.

You'll soon discover why Licking Memorial Hospital is measurably different ... for your health!

Visit us at www.LMHealth.org

A publication of the LMHS Public Relations Department at (740) 348-1572.

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Community Report Card

Licking Memorial Health Systems

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Surgical Care ... a community report on patient care quality.



HEALTH TIPS

To aid in your recovery following surgery, contact your surgeon immediately if you experience any of the following and/or if you have other problems or questions:

- Severe pain
- Persistent vomiting
- Fainting spells
- Redness, bruising or swelling of operative site
- Fever of 101 degrees or higher
- Severe/continuous bleeding
- Trouble urinating

Surgical Care

How Do WE COMPARE?

At Licking Memorial Hospital, we take pride in the care we provide. To monitor the quality of that care, we track specific quality measures and compare them to benchmark measures. Then we publish them so you can draw your own conclusions regarding your health care choices.

1 Unscheduled returns to the operating room (OR) may result from problems involving surgical technique, anesthesia, or infection control.

| | LMH 2003 | LMH 2004 | LMH 1/05-8/05 | National ⁽¹⁾ |
|---|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| % Unscheduled inpatient returns to the OR | 1.8% | 1.0% | 0.4% | 1.2% |

2 Treating patients in the most appropriate setting is an important issue in today's health care environment. It is important to monitor if outpatient operative procedures require inpatient admissions, as these unplanned admissions may indicate inappropriate use of outpatient services.

| | LMH 2003 | LMH 2004 | LMH 1/05-8/05 | National ⁽¹⁾ |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| % Unscheduled admissions | 0.8% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 1.9% |

3 Conscious sedation allows patients to tolerate unpleasant procedures while maintaining adequate breathing and the ability to respond to stimulation. Most of the drugs used in conscious sedation can be reversed fully or partially if necessary. However, careful patient assessment and monitoring reduce the need for reversal agents and improve patient outcomes. Therefore, minimal use of reversal agents is a good indicator of quality in conscious sedation.

| | LMH 2003 | LMH 2004 | LMH 1/05-8/05 | National ⁽¹⁾ |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| % Use of reversal agent – GI Lab | 0.38% | 0.28% | 0.48% | 0.92% |

4 The health care team at Licking Memorial Hospital follows a multiple-step process to prevent wrong-patient, wrong-procedure, wrong-site surgery (e.g., surgery performed on the left foot instead of the right). This process includes left or right designation at the time the surgery is scheduled, verification of the site on the day of surgery with the patient and the patient's current medical record, marking the site, and final verification in the operating room.

| | LMH 2003 | LMH 2004 | LMH 1/05-8/05 | LMH Goal |
|--|----------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Number of surgeries | 5,567 | 5,670 | 3,598 | n/a |
| Wrong-site surgeries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surgical site verification checklist completed | 99% | 99% | 100% | 100% |

5 Receiving the appropriate antibiotic within an hour before surgery reduces a patient's risk for developing infection. Additionally, discontinuing use of antibiotics within 24 hours after surgery lessens the patient's risk of developing antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

| | LMH 2003 | LMH 2004 | LMH 1/05-8/05 | National ⁽²⁾ |
|---|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Antibiotic received within 1 hour | 67% | 91% | 91% | 82% |
| Appropriate antibiotic used | 80% | 94% | 94% | 91% |
| Antibiotic discontinued within 24 hours | 55% | 74% | 76% | 66% |

6 Licking Memorial Hospital patients who have had total joint surgeries – including hip and knee operations – tend to be able to return home to recover more quickly than patients undergoing the same procedures elsewhere. Offering physical therapy on weekends and new medications are two factors that have lessened hospital stays for these patients.

| | LMH 2003 | LMH 2004 | LMH 1/05-8/05 | National ⁽²⁾ |
|---|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| % Primary total joint with length of stay greater than six days | 1.8% | 5.2% | 3.6% | 5.8% |

Data Footnotes:

(1) National benchmark from second quarter 2005 data, The Association of Maryland Hospitals & Health Systems QI Project. These data do not represent a rating by either the QI Project or MHA. Data are supplied by individual facilities and aggregated by the QI Project. Aggregate QI Project data represent the averages of all rates and are not meant to be considered as standards or thresholds. The data are intended for internal use by QI Project participants.

(2) Midas+ Comparative Database with over 300 participating hospitals.

A Patient's Story



Howard Reeves, D.O., founder of Surgical Interventions, L.L.C., in Newark, and member of the medical staff serving Licking Memorial Hospital

One night in bed, Richard Fluegel's abdominal aorta began pulsing. Shelly, a friend of Richard's and a nurse at Licking Memorial Hospital, told Richard that this pulsing in his stomach wasn't right and encouraged him to see general surgeon Howard Reeves, D.O. "I told her that my stomach had been doing this for a while. So, she really urged me to go to the doctor," said Richard. He decided to

take Shelly's advice and scheduled an appointment with Dr. Reeves. While at his appointment, Dr. Reeves performed an ultrasound where he detected an abdominal aortic aneurysm (also referred to as an AAA) and a blood clot in Richard's leg. "Typically there are more than 60,000 abdominal aneurysms diagnosed each year and at least an additional 60,000 go undiagnosed," said Dr. Reeves, founder of Surgical Interventions, L.L.C., in Newark, and member of the medical staff serving Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH). "If left untreated, there is the possibility that the aneurysm would rupture ... rupturing of this typically is associated with death."

When planning Richard's next plan of action, Dr. Reeves talked to Richard about a new, non-invasive surgery that is available at LMH called endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR). "The EVAR surgery is non-invasive. Two small incisions are made in the groin area rather than the traditional sternum to groin incision. The recovery time of the EVAR is also significantly quicker – typically one day in the hospital versus seven to 10 days with the traditional surgery," said Dr. Reeves. He stated that there are very few community hospitals in Ohio with the technology and equipment, and only a handful of physicians certified for this type of procedure. "I spent only one night in the Hospital and went home feeling great," Richard said. He will receive follow-up CT scans every six months for the first year and then annually thereafter.

Richard was impressed with the care he received from Dr. Reeves and Licking Memorial Hospital. "Dr. Reeves was very responsive to everything I said and thorough in explaining what was going on and what to expect," said Richard. It is important to the patient-physician relationship to have open communication. "Patients want to be sure to have a clear understanding of what is about to be done, be aware of any alternative therapies that may be explored prior to having surgery and any possible complications that may arise from surgery," said Dr. Reeves. Richard was impressed how he took the time to explain in detail, using a diagram on his office wall, exactly what was going to happen. "I felt very comfortable going into surgery, and now that it is over, I feel great," said Richard.



Richard Fluegel and Howard Reeves, D.O., general and vascular surgeon at Licking Memorial Hospital, are pictured in Dr. Reeves' office. Dr. Reeves performed a successful endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) on Richard.

Richard was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and moved to Ohio during high school. He retired from sales, where he was responsible for a three-state area. "I just can't sit around, so I went to work part-time at Buddy's Carpet," stated Richard. He resides in Pataskala and has two grown daughters. In his free time, Richard enjoys surfing the Internet and photography.

New Surgeries Available at LMH

Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) surgical services are designed to meet the needs of all patients, from those requiring lifesaving emergency surgery to minor procedures. You'll find a full range of services, including post-anesthesia care, endoscopy, pre- and post-operative care and pre-admission testing.

We provide:

- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Urology
- Orthopedics
- General
- Vascular
- Ophthalmology
- Podiatry
- Pacemakers
- Plastics

LMH is proud of the surgical services that we are able to provide to the community that we serve. LMH has recently expanded services to include limited cosmetic procedures, Trivex varicose vein removal, and BIS/Entropy monitoring for anesthesia.

Walter Bernacki, M.D., plastic surgeon at Licking Memorial Hospital, offers a variety of plastic surgery services including breast reconstruction and enhancements. Dr. Bernacki is able to provide his patients with breast reconstruction immediately following a mastectomy. Dr. Bernacki states that while this approach minimizes post-surgical recovery time, it also minimizes psychological and emotional trauma associated with a mastectomy.

Howard Reeves, D.O., general and vascular surgeon at Licking Memorial Hospital, now offers Trivex, a varicose vein removal surgery that has been found to effectively remove varicose veins. This minimally invasive surgery allows patients to walk out of the hospital with very few scars and be pain-free within a couple of weeks. Light is transmitted under the

vein while Dr. Reeves removes the vein with a small surgical device.

BIS/Entropy monitoring is a new monitor that our anesthesia providers use on many patients receiving general anesthesia. This monitor when used in conjunction with blood pressure, EKG and pulse oximetry monitors allows the anesthesia provider to closely gauge the level of anesthesia the patient is receiving.

Our organization takes pride in utilizing equipment that is on the cutting edge of technology. In addition to the state-of-the-art equipment, our surgery suites are fully automated with a computerized documentation station. "We strive to deliver the very best care using innovative technology and highly trained, motivated staff," said Brenda Kendall, Director of Surgical Services at LMH.



Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) provides state-of-the-art surgery. Visit www.LMHealth.org to learn more about the surgical services offered at LMH.

For more information about the surgical services available at LMH, visit our Web site at www.LMHealth.org.