



Emergency Medical Services Special Edition Newsletter

OhioHealth EMS Newsletter Special Edition: All about the new Pickerington Methodist Hospital

Expansion brings new health services and advanced technology to growing community

OhioHealth is committed to meeting the healthcare needs and expectations of the Pickerington community. The first week of December, OhioHealth Pickerington Medical Campus will become OhioHealth Pickerington Methodist Hospital (PMH), and the name change is just the start. The new 220,000 square foot space will offer expanded services and deliver care in a whole new way. As the first care site in central Ohio to offer advanced in-room hospital technology, we're committed to keeping the patient at the center of everything we do. Keep reading to learn more about what will change and what will stay the same when you consider taking patients to the new PMH.



Labor and Delivery

The new OhioHealth PMH will bring a state-of-the-art Women's Health Services to the Pickerington community. New maternity services are coming that will provide comprehensive care throughout pregnancy, including:

- Obstetrics/emergency department triage staffed by an in-house OB physician 24/7 to provide care for patients as early as three months pregnant and up to four weeks postpartum.
- Spacious labor and delivery rooms with ample natural lighting and soothing color schemes to promote a calm, relaxing environment.
- A beautiful Mother and Infant Unit with a Well Baby Nursery, a special care nursery for infants requiring advanced care.
- Inpatient and outpatient lactation support to help support breastfeeding mothers.

Our maternity care expertise will ensure the healthiest possible outcomes for mothers and babies.

Advanced in-room technology enhances the patient experience

Inpatients at the new PMH will experience personalized in-room technology unlike anywhere else in central Ohio. Interactive, connected TV and tablets in room will give patients “real time” information about who their care team is and what roles they play in their care as well as their daily care plan. Patients can also use this technology to order meals; control room lights and temperature; virtually connect with specialists, extended caregivers, and family and friends; and connect and collaborate with their care team seamlessly. Digital door signs display Epic-fed critical information such as fall risk, allergies, and isolation status – information that enhances patient safety and leads to staff efficiency and more time for patient care. Automated notifications appear on the TV screen, displaying the name and photo of the most frequent care staff entering the room, without interrupting the patient’s TV experience. This state-of-the art connected technology combined with a personalized, warm, caring environment will deliver a first of its kind in-room experience.

Surgical capabilities

The new OhioHealth PMH will provide surgical and procedural services to Pickerington and surrounding communities. The surgery department will care for patients in need of robotic, orthopedic, neuro, general, gynecological, urological and trauma procedures. There will be six operating rooms with a seventh room shelled for future growth. Twenty-eight universal pre/post/pat bays will provide the maximum flexibility to minimize throughput constraints.

Pickerington Methodist Hospital will open with a 12-bed Critical Care/Acuity Adaptable Unit. Critical Care will have six dedicated beds, and the remaining six beds will accommodate Intermediate or Critical Care patients. We will care for patients across all service lines including medical, surgical, neuroscience and trauma. The two procedural labs will be utilized to perform cardiac catheterizations, general interventional radiology and neuro-interventional radiology procedures. In the first year, we will have the ability to perform diagnostic cardiac catheterizations and will be a Level 1 Cardiac Center. Pre-hospital STEMI patients won’t be accepted when the hospital opens but quickly after opening, we will start the pathway to becoming a Level 2 STEMI center. The general interventional radiology services will help support the newly added oncology services as well as our Level III-N trauma program. Neuro-interventional radiology will perform thrombectomy procedures for stroke patients.

Expanded emergency department capabilities

As OhioHealth PMH opens this December, the existing ED is eager to continue caring for the community and to strategically grow as many service lines are added. In addition to adding ED beds and front-line staff, we’ve partnered with oncoming inpatient, trauma, neuro, procedural and women’s health leaders to operate efficiently as we transition from a Free-Standing Emergency Department into a Hospital Based Emergency Department. Formal education preparation and practicing patient-based scenarios and mock go-lives have been a focus over this past year as we draw closer to opening!

Pickerington Methodist Hospital to become one of nation’s first Level III-N Trauma Centers

Pickerington Methodist Hospital is slated to be one of the nation’s first Level III-N Trauma Centers by spring 2026. As a Level III-N Trauma Center, PMH will meet all capabilities of a Level III trauma center with the “N” representing additional capabilities available to neurotrauma

patients. As the campus grows, the opportunity to expand our Critical Care unit in size and acuity will make this an exciting opportunity for our team.

PMH will have 24-hour availability of surgical services for the management of the injured patient, can see any category of alert activation, and will have the clinical resources available to manage most injured patients, keeping care local. PMH will be a verified level III-N Trauma Center by spring, 2026.

Timeline

- **June 2024:** Consultative visit by the American College of Surgeons.
- **September 2024:** Pickerington Methodist Hospital receives state designation as a Provisional Level III-N Trauma Center, at which time it can begin accepting trauma patients.
- **March 2026:** Verification visit by the American College of Surgeons for Verification as a Level III-N Trauma Center.
- **May 2026:** Verified Trauma Center.

Level of Center vs. Category of Alert

All Trauma Center *Levels* can see patients in any *Category* of Trauma Activation

Trauma Center Level

LEVEL I

- + Tertiary care facility that is a central resource for regional trauma care.
- + Provides leadership and total care for every aspect of injury, from prevention through rehabilitation.

LEVEL II

- + Provides initial definitive trauma care regardless of the severity of injury.
- + Level I & II centers are clinically equivalent except for complex, specialized injuries.

LEVEL III

- + Has the capability to initially manage most injured patients.
- + Has transfer agreements with a Level I or II trauma center for seriously injured patients whose needs exceed the facility's resources.

LEVEL III-N

- + Have continuous availability for the care of neurotrauma patients.
- + Board certified or board eligible neurosurgeons that provide neuro- trauma care for patients with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries at the time of arrival to the emergency department.

Category of Trauma Activation

CATEGORY 1

- + Highest level of activation.
- + Trauma surgeon response time defined (15 min at Level I & II Centers, 30 min at Level III).
- + Patients at the highest risk for severe injury based on injury pattern, level of consciousness, vital signs & age.
- + All resources in activation protocol mobilized.

CATEGORY 2

- + Most common level of activation.
- + Patients at moderate risk for severe injury based on mechanism of injury and EMS/ED physician triage.
- + Activates the trauma resuscitation team response.

CONSULT/CATEGORY 3

- + Lowest level of triage for the injured patient.
- + Typically evaluated by ED physician with consult to the Trauma Service.



Expert trauma leadership in place

Thanh Nguyen, DO, MBA, MSHS, FACOS, who joined the team in March in his new role as Trauma Medical Director of PMH, will oversee Trauma, Acute Care Surgery and Surgical Critical Care as Pickerington becomes an American College of Surgeons Verified Level III-N Trauma Center.

Fast Facts about Dr. Nguyen:

- Dr. Nguyen is a Trauma Surgeon with OhioHealth Grant Medical Center's Level I Trauma Service.
- Some of his biggest career highlights are:
 - Leading a key role in Grant Medical Center's last successful ACS reverification in 2022.
 - Serving in Graduate Medical Education as the Program Director for the Trauma and SICU service at Grant Medical Center from 2016 to 2022.
- Dr. Nguyen is committed to continuing his own personal growth and development by earning an MBA and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification.
- He has a passion for engaging and empowering all members of a team to achieve common goals and continuing to learn all he can about his patients, team and the OhioHealth organization.

Advancing stroke care at Pickerington Methodist Hospital

Stroke is a leading cause of disability and the fourth leading cause of death in United States. We are thrilled to announce expanded stroke care for those living in the Pickerington area 24/7. Pickerington Methodist Hospital will be a Thrombectomy Capable program and is set to revolutionize stroke care in our community and significantly improve patient outcomes.

What is thrombectomy?

Thrombectomy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that involves the removal of blood clots from blocked blood vessels. In the context of stroke care, it specifically targets occlusions in the large blood vessels of brain, significantly reducing the risk of long-term disabilities and improving chances of recovery after stroke.

The importance of a Thrombectomy Capable program

By providing our EMS team with the necessary training and resources to rapidly identify stroke patients eligible for thrombectomy, we can ensure that life-saving treatment is administered as quickly as possible. Time is of the essence, and this program is designed to streamline the process of delivering this emergent treatment closer to home, resulting in improved clinical outcomes and a higher quality of life in stroke survivors.

Our team

The success of the Thrombectomy Capable program at PMH is anchored in the expertise and dedication of our neuroscience team working together with our EMS team. We have invested in comprehensive training and continuous education to equip our paramedics and emergency responders with the skills needed to identify stroke symptoms promptly and initiate the appropriate protocols. Additionally, our collaboration with leading neurologists, interventional neuro-radiologists and stroke specialists further enhances our capabilities, ensuring a seamless and efficient continuum of care for stroke patients from the moment of the call to 911 through treatment and recovery.

Commitment to patient-centered care

At PMH, our commitment to patient-centered care remains at the core of everything we do. The introduction of the Thrombectomy Capable program is a testament to our dedication to embracing the latest advancements in medical technology and delivering the highest standards of emergency care to our community.

Comprehensive neuroscience offerings located at hospital

Behavioral Health

While Behavioral Health has partnered with the Pickerington FSED to provide virtual psychiatric services for several years, we are excited to now also offer virtual Behavioral Health consult services for inpatients at PMH. We have been successful in providing this service at several other OhioHealth hospitals and look forward to providing same high quality care at PMH.

General Neurology

In addition to our stroke specialists, general neurologists will now be available 24/7 to support the treatment and management of a wide array of neurological disorders with the opening of the new PMH. We are excited to bring this new service closer to Pickerington community. Our team of expert neurologists will assess and refer to our comprehensive group of subspecialty neurologists including Epilepsy, Headache & Pain disorders, Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroimmunology, Cognitive & Behavior Neurology and Neuro-muscular Neurology as needed.

Neurosurgery

- Our neurosurgical team will cover the Trauma Level III-N needs, but those same neurosurgeons also have a large outpatient practice at Pickerington, allowing us to provide comprehensive neurosurgical and trauma care locally. Pickerington Methodist Hospital will also be home to outpatient non-surgical spine services.
- The creation of PMH will bring highly specialized spine and cranial surgeries to Pickerington, including spine trauma, mild-to-moderate head injuries and fractures.

Infusion Services

Pickerington Methodist Hospital will offer Outpatient Infusion Services. Approximately 33,000 unique infusions were provided across the OhioHealth Infusion Services last year, and we're excited to expand upon this service when the hospital opens. Pickerington Infusion Services will provide patients a comfortable and patient-centered environment with highly qualified staff for infusion therapies for both cancerous and noncancerous conditions. Infusion Services at PMH will have 16 spacious infusion bays that feature natural lighting with floor to ceiling windows, emphasizing privacy and comfort. In addition to these bays, space will include a private infusion room for extended or complex infusions, "Quick Chairs" for injections and rapid infusions. We're excited to further our footprint when it comes to serving our immediate and extended communities with both cancerous and non-cancerous conditions.

OhioHealth is proud to bring these new life-extending and life-saving services to the Pickerington community. The new PMH will allow us to deliver exceptional patient experiences by bringing specialists and services close to home. Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward with this transformative initiative. Thank you for your continued support as we work tirelessly to improve patient outcomes and advance the standard of care at PMH. To learn more about PMH, [watch the video](#) on this webpage.