

THE SATELLITE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT THE MUHLENBERG CAMPUS — *What You Need To Know*

Satellite Emergency Department Provides Community Access to Basic Emergency Care — Effective Midnight, August 13, 2008

With the planned closure of acute care services at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center after August 13, 2008, we remain committed to serving the needs of the community, providing area residents with access to round-the-clock care. As such, JFK Medical Center, an affiliate of Solaris Health System, will maintain a Satellite Emergency Department at the current site of the Muhlenberg Emergency Department. The compassion and positive, friendly attitude of the Muhlenberg staff toward patients and family members is matched only by their professionalism and technical aptitude that they work with from day to day. This experience makes a difference, especially in an emergency. The Satellite Emergency Department (SED) will combine high-quality, urgent care with the same trusted, experienced and board-certified physicians, specialty trained nurses and other healthcare professionals you have grown to know and love over the years.

So, to help you better understand the type of services you can expect from the Satellite Emergency Department at the Muhlenberg Campus, we want to provide you with answers to some frequently asked questions.

WHAT IS A SATELLITE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT?

A satellite (or free-standing) emergency department is physically separate from a traditional acute care hospital. By state regulations, a free-standing emergency department must be affiliated with a nearby acute care hospital, such as JFK Medical Center in Edison.

The Satellite Emergency Department at the Muhlenberg Campus has the same capabilities of a conventional emergency department. It is operational 24 hours per day, seven days per week and is able to immediately evaluate, stabilize and treat the same wide-range of conditions typically cared for in a traditional emergency room setting.

WHAT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE SATELLITE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT?

As with a conventional hospital emergency room, the SED will treat patients with health problems that require immediate, specialized attention. Specifically, it will offer care for adult and pediatric patients with minor injuries and illnesses such as:

- general medical conditions: colds, flu, sore throats, ear aches, sinus infections
- mild asthma exacerbations
- minor burns
- sprains/broken bones
- fevers/rashes
- lacerations/stitches
- upper respiratory conditions

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- urinary tract infection
- mild allergic reactions
- minor musculoskeletal and head injuries
- wound care
- minor motor vehicle/work injuries

Additionally, the SED will provide transportation for patients who require transfer to an acute care setting as needed. The Satellite Emergency Department at the Muhlenberg Campus will provide:

- Diagnostic Imaging/Radiology services: X-ray, ultrasound, CT-scan
- On-site laboratory testing
- Waiting areas for families during the care, treatment and/or observation of patient.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SED DETERMINES THAT HOSPITALIZATION IS REQUIRED?

The staff at the SED will stabilize those patients who require transfer to an acute care hospital; and a specialty care transport vehicle will be available to transfer patients to JFK Medical Center or other hospitals as appropriate.

Ambulances generally won't bring the most critically ill patients to the SED, including major trauma patients and those having strokes or heart attacks. Ambulance squads will generally go straight to a full-service acute care hospital with patients who require hospital admission.

WHEN IS IT APPROPRIATE TO GO DIRECTLY TO A FULL-SERVICE ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL?

Patients who require advanced life support, critical care, surgery, advanced radiological and laboratory testing, are in labor, or suffer from medically complex conditions should be cared for at the closest acute care hospitals. Such types of patients are:

- Patients treated by advanced life support personnel or mobile intensive care units and require advanced life support care
- Patients with psychiatric emergencies, under the influence of alcohol or other substances, or demonstrating altered mental status
- Women more than 20 weeks pregnant with conditions relating to pregnancy.

JFK Medical Center has increased its acute care capacity to accommodate such patients.

WHERE WILL THE SATELLITE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT BE LOCATED AND WHAT ARE THE HOURS OF OPERATION?

The Satellite Emergency Department will be located at the current site of the Muhlenberg Emergency Department, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield. As with conventional emergency departments, the SED will operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

For additional information, please call 908-668-2200.



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