



## Press Release

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PROFESSIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE DELIVERS VISION, RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (Thursday, July 1, 2009)** – The Professional Steering Committee (PSC) of the Great Lakes Health System of Western New York delivered its clinical vision and recommendations for health services to the respective boards of Great Lakes Health, ECMCC and Kaleida Health.

The Great Lakes Health System of Western New York is the governing board overseeing the integration of ECMC and Kaleida Health.

The PSC, a group made up of primarily physicians from both organizations, was created as part of the binding agreement signed by Kaleida Health and ECMCC on June 20, 2008. The Committee consists of five voting physicians from ECMC and five voting physicians from Kaleida Health, as well as ex-officio members from nursing and the medical staff of both organizations, and the University of Buffalo.

Over the past year, the physicians have been working to develop a plan for clinical services and strengthened alignment between Kaleida and ECMCC. Over 70 private practice and academic physicians from both organizations have been involved in the process.

These recommendations will now go through a feasibility analysis by both ECMC and Kaleida organizations and will be deliberated by the Boards of ECMCC, Kaleida Health, and Great Lakes Health. Together, the groups will need to formulate an operational plan, a timetable, and address various issues such as impact on labor, and to secure the funding necessary to make the physicians' vision a reality. The recommendations of the physician led Professional Steering Committee are as follows:

**Cardiac Services** - Transition all appropriate cardiac care from ECMC to the soon to be built Global Vascular Institute, while maintaining sufficient services and programs to support Trauma and the high volume of emergency room visits at ECMC.

**Orthopedics** - Create a new Bone Health Center at ECMC that will bring new subspecialists in Orthopedics to Buffalo in areas that are underserved, such as Rheumatology and Geriatrics. The new center will increase access for patients that will result in enhanced prevention and improved care for patients with bone health conditions. In addition, create a new, separate surgical area for orthopedics at ECMC that allows for growth and is both physician friendly and patient centered. Create and consolidate elective spine surgery at Buffalo General in conjunction with the Global Vascular Institute. Maintain the orthopedic programs at BGH, MFS, WCHOB, DMH and Kline Road Ambulatory Surgery Center.

**Solid Organ Transplantation Services** - Consolidate the Transplant programs (kidney and pancreas). Locate the consolidated program at ECMC creating a Center of Excellence that will allow for future expansion of transplant services.

**Critical Care** - Create a Great Lakes Health transfer center that will allow for the seamless transfers of critical patients from outlying community hospitals.

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