



Aiken Regional
MEDICAL CENTERS

www.aikenregional.com

Aiken Regional Medical Centers

***Everything You Will Need to
Know
During Your Hospital Stay***



Aiken Regional Medical Center



Welcome

Welcome



All of us at Aiken Regional Medical Centers (ARMC) extend a personal welcome to you and your family. Our goal is to make you as comfortable as possible. We know that a hospital stay is not an easy experience and hope that with this guide, you feel more comfortable and secure by understanding your surroundings and how we work here at ARMC.

Physicians, administration, management, associates and volunteers are dedicated to providing you with the highest level of service possible. ARMC team members are guided by our philosophy of Service Excellence in all that they do. Our Service Excellence Standards are:

- Treat everyone as a guest
- Demonstrate professionalism and excellence in the things I do
- Practice teamwork

Thank you for selecting Aiken Regional Medical Centers for your healthcare needs. Please feel free talk to our staff about anything you don't find the answers to in this guide.

Sincerely,

K. D. Justyn, C.E.O

Patient Information

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME FROM THE CEO	2
OUR HISTORY	4
GENERAL VISITING GUIDELINES	5
• Visiting Hours	5
• Smoking	5
CAFETERIA SERVICES/MEALS.....	5
• Cafeteria Service Hours	5
• Patient Dining Services	5
• Guest/Visitor Meals	5
PARKING	5
NURSE CALL SYSTEM	6
PHYSICIAN REFERRAL	6
HOSPITALIST SERVICES	6
HELP WITH PERSONAL MEDICAL DECISIONS.....	6
SPIRITUAL/CHAPLAIN/MEDITATION ROOM.....	7
PATIENT ADVOCATE INFORMATION.....	7
RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS	7
ROOM TRANSFERS	7
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	7
VALUABLES	7
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	8
TELEPHONE SERVICE.....	8
PHONE DIRECTORY	9
TELEVISION STATIONS	10
MAIL.....	11
NEWSPAPERS	11
GIFT SHOP.....	11
FLOWERS	11
ATMs.....	11
SRP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION.....	11
GOING HOME/CHECKOUT	12
BILLING INFORMATION.....	12
FINANCIAL COUNSELING	13
YOUR RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES.....	13
LEWIS BLACKMAN HOSPITAL PATIENT SAFETY ACT.....	15
ADVANCE DIRECTIVES	18
AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEDICARE	20
MEDICAL STAFF LISTING	23
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS	25
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	30



Table Of Contents



OUR HISTORY

Aiken Regional Medical Centers (ARMC) is located in Aiken, South Carolina. We opened our doors in 1917 as the Aiken Hospital and Relief Society. Today we are a full-service, 230-bed acute care and behavioral health facility offering a wide variety of specialties and services.

The medical staff includes more than 120 physicians representing a broad spectrum of specialties. These physicians value care that is as personally responsive as it is technologically advanced, focusing on the needs of each individual.

Each year, we deliver more than 1,200 babies and provide emergency care for more than 50,000 people. More than 8,000 surgeries are performed each year.

We care for newborns, infants, children, adolescents and adults, with specialty care for older adults.

VISITOR INFORMATION



General Visiting Rules

To allow proper rest and care for patients, we ask that visitors are limited to two per room at a time. Visitors under the influence of alcohol or other mind-altering drugs will be asked to leave the hospital campus.

Visiting Hours

Please check with the patient's nurse.

Smoking

To promote better health for patients, associates and visitors, the entire campus of ARMC is tobacco free. Associates, patients and visitors may not use tobacco of any kind anywhere on campus (including all indoor and outdoor areas).

CAFETERIA SERVICES/MEALS

Cafeteria Service Hours

Breakfast – 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday through Friday

Lunch Entrée – 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Sunday

Grill and Deli– 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday

Dinner Entrée – 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Sunday

Grill – 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Sunday

Changes in these hours will be posted at the cafeteria entrance.

Changes in these hours will be posted at the cafeteria entrance.

Patient Dining Services

Personalized menus based on physician-prescribed diets are prepared daily for patients.

Guest/Visitor Meals

We are happy to serve guest meal trays upon request. Please contact nutrition services at ext. 5037 for ordering information. We ask that guests pay meal tray fees prior to receipt. Payment may be made at the cafeteria cash registers or in the Cashiers Office, located on the first floor of the hospital. Guests age 50 and above receive a 10 percent discount on all meals and beverages.

Parking

Parking is available in all areas around the facility. Short-term and handicap parking spaces are available at the main entrance of the hospital. We ask that you do not park under the porticoes of the Main Lobby, Emergency Department and Registration Lobbies, or the Women's LifeCare Center. These areas are for patient pickup/drop-off only. Please do not park in areas marked "No Parking."



Nurse Call System

To operate the intercom system in your room, press the call button for assistance. The nurse's station will answer your call, and a staff member will respond to your request. Please consider that staff may be attending to the needs of another patient at the moment, but they will arrive as soon as possible.

Physician Referral

Physician referral services are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For assistance with physician referral, contact 1-800-882-7445. Referrals are for on-staff physicians based on the need/specialty requested.

Hospitalist Services

Through its Hospitalist Program, ARMC assures patients high-quality medical care and attention during their hospital stay. A hospitalist is a physician who specializes in the care of hospitalized patients.

Hospitalists at ARMC are board-certified internal medicine physicians and physician assistants who provide round-the-clock specialized care. Our hospitalist medicine group concentrates on the unique aspects of patients' needs during their hospital stay, working with nurses and other caregivers at ARMC to provide an integrated patient-care team.

Hospitalists help manage patients throughout their entire hospital stay, often beginning in the Emergency Department and following them into the critical care unit and organizing postacute care. Your primary care physician can refer you to our Hospitalist Program.

The Hospitalist team at ARMC provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are available to you and your family to answer questions and discuss your care. They will coordinate and consult with primary care physicians and specialists, order diagnostic imaging studies and laboratory tests, prescribe medications and closely monitor the patient's progress.

When a patient is ready to leave ARMC, the Hospitalist team will prepare a discharge plan, including written and verbal instructions and any necessary prescriptions. This plan will also include appointments for follow-up with a primary care physician and relevant specialists.

Help With Personal Medical Decisions

During your hospital stay, you and your family may face important decisions about initiating or continuing certain medical care or treatments. You may have personal or ethical questions and struggle with these decisions.

The hospital Ethics Committee can help you and your family understand your choices. The Ethics Committee includes healthcare professionals, clergy and community members. We suggest first discussing your choices with your physician or nurse, and then requesting consultation with the Ethics Committee. Your physician or nurse can help you with referral to the Ethics Committee.



Spiritual/Chaplain/Meditation Room

The hospital is staffed with a clergy member who services all religious denominations. The Chaplain is available to provide counseling, prayer and spiritual support. For assistance, dial the hospital operator (0) and give your name and where you can be reached.

The hospital meditation room is open 24 hours a day. It is located on the second floor across from elevators 4, 5 and 6.

Patient Advocate Information

If you or your family have any questions, concerns or complaints, please feel free to contact our Patient Advocate by calling ext. 5292 or paging 442-3465 during business hours. The Patient Advocate's office is located in the front lobby of the first floor. After hours, contact the operator by dialing "0" and ask for the nurse supervisor.

Resolution of Complaints

Our goal at ARMC is to provide patients and families with a pleasant, restful and health-restoring atmosphere. However, if your needs are not being met, the hospital has a formal process for reviewing patient complaints and helping to resolve conflicts. Please contact our Patient Advocate at ext. 5292, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. During nonbusiness hours, you can dial the operator and ask to speak with the Nursing Supervisor.

Room Transfers

We may need to transfer you to another room or unit during your stay. Your nurse or doctor will notify your family if you are unable to tell them yourself. If you are staying on a medical floor and are scheduled for surgery, you may be transferred after surgery to a surgical floor or to the Intensive Care Unit. Have a family member or friend check that all personal belongings in your room, including walkers, canes, dentures, glasses and hearing aids, were transferred also

Interpreter Services

For patients or family members of patients who have sensory impairments, speak limited English or have other communication barriers, ARMC will provide auxiliary aids and/or service to ensure effective communication. These services, including large-print materials, sign language interpreters, LEP (limited English proficiency) interpreters and translation services through AT&T's Language Line are provided for free when accessing, receiving or providing diagnostic, surgical, therapeutic or educational services at ARMC.

Valuables

ARMC is not responsible for the loss of money or other valuables. Please leave your jewelry, large amounts of money or other valuables at home. If you have valuables with you at the time of admission and arrangements cannot be made to send them home, ARMC will provide for their collection, inventory and storage. Your valuables will be returned to you when you are discharged.



The cashier can assist you with collection and storage of valuables. The cashier office is located on the first floor adjacent to the Emergency Department. Once again, please note that the hospital is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables unless they have been collected for storage in the department safe.

Any possessions unclaimed after six months will be forwarded to the State of South Carolina or discarded. ARMC is not responsible for the damage or loss of eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures and other personal items. Please take proper precautions and care of these articles.

Electrical Appliances

For your safety, please avoid using personal electrical appliances while in the hospital. Some small appliances may be approved in special situations by physician order. Under these circumstances, an Engineering Staff member will inspect the equipment for code compliance. You may direct any special requests or questions to your nurse.

Telephone Service

Telephone service is available in all nonrestricted areas. You may place or accept local calls. Outside local calls may be placed by dialing "9" and then the telephone number.

People calling from outside ARMC's campus can place calls to most patient rooms by dialing 641-5 followed by the patient's room number (for example, to reach Room 232, dial 641-5232).

For calls to the Progressive Care Unit, dial 641-54 followed by the last two digits of the room number (for example, to reach Room 263, dial 641-5463).

Direct calls to patient rooms in the patient Women's LifeCare Center can be made by dialing 641-58 followed by the last two digits of the room number (for example, to reach Room 233, dial 641-5833). Note: please be considerate of the needs of new or expecting mothers in labor/delivery areas and give special consideration before placing a telephone call.

Calls to restricted units, such as the ICU, will be monitored via the nursing station.

Voice amplification, Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) and specialty services may be requested by contacting your nursing staff member.

PHONE DIRECTORY



Phone Directory

Hospital Phone Listing

Aiken Regional Medical Centers	
Main Number	(803) 641-5000
Aurora Pavilion	641-5900
Respond – 24-Hour Assessment Calls	1-800-273-7911
Business Office Services	641-5650
Cancer Care Institute of Carolina	641-7850
Chaplain	641-5389
Credit Union (SRP)	641-5099
Diabetes & Nutrition Teaching Center	293-0023
Emergency Department	641-5100
Gift Shop	641-5023
Housekeeping	641-5714
Information Desk	641-5020
Marketing/Community Relations	641-5926
Medical Records	641-5025
Nutrition/Guest Services	641-5037
Patient Advocate	641-5292
Registration Services	641-5115
Resource Scheduling	641-5808
Security/Hospital Operator	0
Social Services	641-5385
Surgical Waiting Area	4136
Open Heart Waiting Area	4876
Volunteer Services	641-5292
Waiting Rooms – ICU (located on 2nd floor)	641-5239
Women’s LifeCare Waiting Room	641-5885



Television Stations

TELEVISION STATIONS

Basic:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 WAGT (NBC) | 19 TNT |
| 3 WIS (NBC/Community Channel) | 20 SportSouth |
| 4 Government Information | 21 Family |
| 5 WRDW (CBS) | 22 Disney |
| 6 WCES (PBS) | 23 Great American Country |
| 7 WBEK (UPN) | 24 BET |
| 8 WJBF (ABC) | 25 The Learning Channel |
| 9 WB Network | 26 Arts & Entertainment |
| 10 WFXG (FOX) | 27 Discovery Channel |
| 11 TV Guide Channel | 28 Travel Channel |
| 12 WOLO (ABC - Columbia) | 29 Home & Garden TV |
| 13 WEBA (PBS) | 30 Food Network |
| 14 The Weather Channel | 31 E! Entertainment |
| 15 C-Span | 32 TBS |
| 16 C-Span 2 | 33 USA Network |
| 17 Fox News | 34 TNT |
| 18 CNBC | 35 ESPN |

Deluxe Basic:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 36 ESPN 2 | 50 Animal Planet |
| 37 Fox Sport South | 51 Nickelodeon |
| 38 Golf Channel | 52 Cartoon Network |
| 39 The Speed Channel | 53 Court TV |
| 41 Spike | 54 Sci-Fi |
| 42 CNN | 55 FX |
| 43 CNN Headline News | 56 Comedy Central |
| 44 American Movie Classics | 57 VH – 1 |
| 45 Turner Classic Movies | 58 MTV |
| 46 FX Movies | 59 TV Land |
| 47 Bravo | 96 WBEK |
| 48 Lifetime | 97 Home Shopping Network |
| 49 History Channel | 98 QVC |

WLC - 52 Newborn Channel Spanish

WLC - 54 Newborn Channel English



Mail

U.S. Postal Service boxes are located outside the front lobby entrance. Package pickups are by 4:30 p.m. daily. Mail to patients can be forwarded to:

302 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801

Please include the patient's name and room number on the front of the envelope. We will forward mail received after the patient has been discharged to the patient's home address.

Newspapers

Local newspapers are delivered daily to patient rooms at no charge. Paper boxes are also located outside the front lobby entrance and outside our Outpatient Diagnostic Area.

Gift Shop

The Hospital Gift Shop is located in the front lobby. We stock candy, fresh flowers, greeting cards, sundries, baby items, balloons, jewelry and an assortment of gifts for your shopping pleasure. Gift-wrapping is available for purchases made in the shop. The Hospital Auxiliary of Aiken County operates the gift shop. Proceeds fund scholarships for students who live in Aiken County and are enrolled in accredited medical education programs.

Hours of operation:

Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Flowers

For your convenience, floral arrangements are available in the hospital gift shop. Flowers may be delivered to patient rooms, with the exception of the ICU.

ATMs

Two ATMs are available onsite for your convenience: one outside the Human Resources Office in the main lobby, and another across from the Cashier's Office on the first floor.

SRP Federal Credit Union

SRP Federal Credit Union members may use the branch located on the first floor of the hospital.

Hours of operation:

Monday and Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to noon*

Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

***Closed daily from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for lunch**



GOING HOME/CHECKOUT

Discharge Arrangements

Once your physician believes you are ready to be discharged from the hospital, several members of your healthcare team will work with you to plan and coordinate your discharge.

Your doctor may recommend additional services such as home healthcare visits, home medical equipment or skilled nursing facility services. A discharge planner is available to help assess and plan for your needs, and also to make arrangements so these services are in place when you are discharged.

On the day of discharge, your nurse will give you written instructions regarding follow-up care. Your nurse will review them with you and answer your questions before you leave the hospital. A hospital associate or volunteer will bring you to the Central Registration entrance by the Emergency Department and assist you to the car.

Billing Information

Patients' primary and secondary insurance policies will be billed at the time of discharge. However, patients ultimately are responsible for full payment of the hospital bill. This includes all amounts your insurance carrier does not pay or cover. If your insurance does not pay within 60 days from the date of service, please contact your insurance company to help resolve the account.

Many insurance carriers require preauthorization of services prior to treatment. Whenever possible, ARMC will assist the patient with preauthorization. However, it is the insured's responsibility to make sure precertification and/or preauthorization is obtained. All charges incurred immediately become the patient's responsibility.

If you have questions or concerns about your bill, please contact our Customer Service Department at 641-5650 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you prefer to speak personally with someone about your bill, you can go to the registration department, which is located on the first floor next to the Emergency Department. Itemized bills are available upon request.

ARMC will send you monthly statements showing if we are awaiting payment from your insurance or that you are responsible for the balance due. Payment arrangements can be made by contacting the Customer Service Department at 641-5650. Our Spanish-speaking patients can access a language interpreter services line at 641-5650.

According to ARMC policy, all balances must be paid in full within six (6) months from the date of insurance payment/patient responsibility. For your convenience, you can pay by phone, mail or in person. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express.

By mail:

P.O. Drawer 1117
Aiken, SC 29802

By telephone:

803-641-5088

Inquires regarding refunds should be forwarded to our Refunds Department at 803-641-5650.

Financial Counseling

Our financial counselors are available to answer any questions regarding co-payments, deductibles and deposit requirements. Counselors will answer questions by telephone or by visiting patient rooms. Call 641-5830 or 641-5831 to contact a counselor.

Screening for medical assistance from outside sources, such as South Carolina Medicaid or MIAP fund, will be conducted on an individual basis in accordance with state and federal guidelines. For assistance, call 641-5629.

***YOUR RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES
AS A PATIENT***

As a patient at Aiken Regional Medical Centers, you are a partner in your own healthcare. You are entitled to be treated with respect, and to be involved in decisions about your treatment.

Your Rights

- You have the right to a reasonable response to your requests and needs for care, within the hospital's capacity, its slated mission, and applicable laws. You have the right to transfer to another facility at your request, or when it is medically recommended.
- You have the right, when you are admitted, to receive information about our patient rights policies, and how to resolve complaints about your care.
- You have the right to considerate and respectful care, including consideration of the special psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural factors that influence your beliefs about illness and death. You also have the right to have your family participate in your care if you so desire.
- You have the right to information about pain and pain relief measures; a concerned staff committed to pain prevention and management; health professionals who respond quickly to reports of pain; the expectation that your report of pain will be believed; and state-of-the-art pain management provided by dedicated professionals.
- You have the right to be free from restraints of any form that are not medically necessary.
- You have the right to privacy, comfort, and dignity.
- You have the right to information about your illness, possible treatments and likely outcomes, and the names and roles of your





Your Rights & Responsibilities

healthcare providers.

- You have the right to participate with your physicians in healthcare decisions, including the right to accept or refuse treatment as permitted by law. You have the right to be informed of the medical consequences of refusing treatment.
- You have the right to have an advance directive (“living will” or similar document) and to name the person of your choice to make healthcare decisions on your behalf to the extent permitted by law.
- You have the right to participate in the consideration of ethical issues that may arise in your care or that of your child.
- You have the right to consent or decline to participate in medical research.
- You have the right to confidentiality of patient information and medical records, unless you have given permission to release information, or unless reporting is required or permitted by law.
- You have the right to review your medical record and have the information explained, except when restricted by law.
- You have the right to continuity of care, and to be informed by physicians and other healthcare providers of available, realistic patient care options when hospitalization is no longer appropriate.
- You have the right to examine and receive an explanation of your bill, regardless of source of payment.
- You have the right to request a care provider of the same gender.
- You have the right, if you are hard of hearing or deaf, to be provided with sign language and oral interpreters, TTY’s, and other auxiliary aids, free of charge.
- You have the right to file a complaint with the state authorities.

Your Responsibilities

We encourage you to take an active part in your healthcare. As a patient at Aiken Regional Medical Centers, you are expected:

- To provide accurate, complete information about your present condition, past illnesses, hospitalization, medications, and other matters relating to your health.
- To ask questions when you don’t understand information or instructions.
- To report to your healthcare providers unexpected changes in your medical condition.
- To ask your doctor or nurse what to expect regarding pain and pain management; to discuss pain relief options with your doctors or nurses; to work with your doctor and nurse to develop a pain management plan; to ask for pain relief when your pain first begins; to help your doctor or nurse assess your pain, to tell your doctor or



nurse whether or not the pain is relieved; and to tell your doctor or nurse about any worries you have about taking pain medication.

- To participate in treatment decisions, follow treatment recommendation and instructions, and inform your healthcare providers when you believe you cannot follow the prescribed treatment.
- To follow hospital rules and regulations affecting your care.
- To be considerate of the rights of others in the hospital, and to follow hospital policy about controlling noise, smoking, and the number of visitors.
- To provide the hospital with insurance information and to fulfill financial obligations to the hospital.
- To recognize the effects of lifestyle on personal health.

THE LEWIS BLACKMAN HOSPITAL PATIENT SAFETY ACT

Name Badges:

- All individuals clinically involved in your care will wear a name badge.
- This badge will clearly tell you the individual's name, department, and job or trainee title.
- Clinical trainees, medical students, interns, and resident physicians will be clearly identified.

Written Information

- Upon admission (or for outpatient surgery), you will be provided information identifying the role of your attending physician. (This information is not available to patients being admitted to the Aurora Pavilion or for patients that are not being admitted into the hospital)

Medical Staff

- All patients have an attending physician, but the physician assigned to your care may change due to your changing condition.
- The attending physician is the physician primarily responsible for your care.
- In addition to your attending physician, clinical trainees, medical students, interns, and resident physicians may also participate in your care.
- Resident physicians may make treatment decisions and may assist with or perform surgery.

Definitions:

- Clinical Staff: Individuals who are hospital employees and whose duties include the personal care or medical treatment of patients.
- Clinical Trainee: Individuals who are receiving health care professional training in a hospital; students or licensed professionals



Patient Safety Act

whose training includes the personal care or medical treatment of patients. Clinical trainees are not employees of the hospital.

- **Attending Physician:** A licensed physician who has completed his or her postgraduate medical training and who has primary responsibility for the patient's care while the patient is in the hospital. The physician is not an employee of the hospital.
- **Designee:** A credentialed physician or credentialed caregiver whom the patient's attending physician has designated to care for the patient in the absence of the attending physician. This physician is not an employee of the hospital.
- **Resident Physician:** An individual who is participating in a graduate medical education program and whose relationship to the patient is under the auspices of the medical education program. The resident physician is not an employee of the hospital.

Contacting Your Physician

- If you have questions about your medical care that the nursing staff cannot answer, your nurse will help you contact your physician.
- The nurse can contact the physician for you, or can give you the physician's phone number.
 - ❖ The nurse can help you place the call if necessary.

Patient Satisfaction System

- Should you have comments or concerns about your stay at our facility we have a Patient Advocate. More information about this in another section of this guide (see page 10).
- During regular business hours, you can contact the Patient Advocate by telephone or beeper. After business hours, you can contact the Nursing Supervisor.
- You can contact the Patient Advocate without the assistance or knowledge of your care providers.
- If you need assistance contacting the Patient Advocate, a member of the clinical staff will promptly help you place the call.

In Compliance with the Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act, Aiken Regional Medical Centers is providing a list of abbreviations you may see on Employee Badges.

BSW, Bachelor Social Worker

C. Ph. T., Certified Pharmacy Technician

CORT, Certified OR Tech

CPT, Certified Phlebotomy Tech

CRNA, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

CRRT, Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician

CST, Central Sterile Tech

CT (ASCP), Cytology Tech



CTT, Care Team Tech
DO, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
EMT-P, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic
FNP, Family Nurse Practitioner
HT (ASCP), Histology Tech
LBSW, Licensed Bachelors Social Worker
LBSW, MHT, Licensed Bachelors Social Worker, Mental Health Technician
LMSW, Licensed Masters Social Worker
LPN, Licensed Practical Nurse
MD, Doctor of Medicine
MHT, Mental Health Technician
MLT, Medical Laboratory Technician
MSW, Master Social Worker
MT, Medical Technologist
MT/UC, Monitor Tech/Unit Clerk
NREMT-P, National Registered Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic
OBST, OB Scrub Tech
ORT, OR Tech
PA-C, Physicians Assistant-Certified
PCT, Patient Care Tech
Pharm. D., Dr. in Pharmacy
PT, Physical Therapist
PTA, Physical Therapist Aid
R.PH., Registered Pharmacist
RCP, Respiratory Care Practitioner
RCP, PSGT, Respiratory Care Practitioner, Polysomnography Technician
RD, Registered Dietician
RN, Registered Nurse
RRT, Registered Respiratory Therapist
RT (R), Radiological Technologist
RT (R) (M), Radiological Technologist, Mammography
RT (R) (CT), Radiological Technologist, Cat Scan
RT (R) (MRI), Radiological Technologist, Magnetic Resonance Imaging
RT (R) (M) (CT), Radiological Technologist, Mammography, Cat Scan
SLP, Speech Language Pathologist
ST, Scrub Tech
UC, Unit Clerk
UC/CTT, Unit Clerk/Care Team Tech
UC/Monitor Tech, Unit Clerk, Monitor Tech



ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

You are in charge of your health.

- You have the right to make all decisions that affect your healthcare. But what if you become unable to make those decisions yourself? Then you'll just have to rely on others to make the right decisions for you, right? Wrong. You have the right to decide what kinds of treatment you want to be given if you become incapacitated.

What are advance directives?

- Advance directives are legally binding documents that you can sign to specify the kind of treatment you want or do not want to be given in the event that you become unable to express your wishes at the time of treatment. The living will and the health care power of attorney are two types of advance directives in South Carolina.

Will Advance Directives from other states be valid in South Carolina?

- An advance directive executed in another state may not meet all the requirements of South Carolina law. To make sure you have a legal advance directive, you should execute South Carolina forms or have your attorney review the advance directive from the other state.

What should I do with my Advance Directive?

- You should keep them in a safe place where your family members can get to them. Do **NOT** keep the original copies in your safe deposit box. Give copies of this document to as many of the following people as you are comfortable with: your spouse, and other family members; your lawyer; your clergy; and any local hospital or nursing home where you may be residing. Another idea is to keep a small wallet card in your purse or wallet which states that you have an advanced directive and who should be contacted.

What is a living will?

- A living will is a document that allows you to tell your doctor what to do if you are permanently unconscious or if you are terminally ill and close to death. A living will allows you to declare your desire to die a natural death, instead of having your life prolonged indefinitely by artificial or extraordinary means.

When does a South Carolina Living Will go into effect?

- A South Carolina living will goes into effect when:
 1. Your doctor has a copy of it;
 2. Your doctor has concluded that you are no longer able to make your own health care decisions; and
 3. Your doctor and another doctor have determined that you are in a terminal condition or are in a permanently unconscious state for a period of 90 consecutive days.

Does a South Carolina Living Will affect insurance?

- No. The making of a living will, in accordance with South Carolina law, will not affect the sale or issuance of any insurance policy, nor shall it invalidate or change the terms of any insurance policy.



What is a health care power of attorney?

- A health care power of attorney is another document that allows you to give instructions for your future health care. With a health care power of attorney, you name someone to be your “agent” in the event you become unable to make your own health care decisions. Under such circumstances, your agent has the right to make all decisions about your health care that need to be made. You can guide the decisions of your agent by including specific rules or limitations in your health care power of attorney.

What are the advantages of health care power of attorney?

- The health care power of attorney is actually a more flexible document than the living will. With a living will, you can only say what you don’t want, but a health care power of attorney allows you to say what kind of treatment you do want as well. If you choose to, you may sign both a living will and a health care power of attorney. If you change your mind, these documents can be revoked at any time by you or someone authorized by you.

Are advance directives a type of euthanasia?

- No. Euthanasia, commonly called, “mercy killing,” is when someone’s life is terminated deliberately and prematurely to avoid further pain and suffering. Euthanasia is not legal in South Carolina. By using advance directives, you are not losing control – you are taking charge of your life decisions for yourself. With advance directives, you will receive only the treatment you wish to receive. You can decide you don’t want your life prolonged artificially, but advance directives will never cause your life to be taken prematurely.

Take the burden of decision off your family.

- If you become unable to make your own health care decisions because of terminal illness or permanent unconsciousness, and you don’t have a living will or healthcare power of attorney, then your family will be responsible for those important decisions. Your family would probably try to do what you would want, but they may not know what you would want. And they might not all agree. It would be better for them if they didn’t have to worry about making these tough decisions during such an emotionally difficult time. They won’t have to if you sign a living will or a health care power of attorney.

The time to do something about it is now!

- Most people put off signing a living will or health care power of attorney until they are faced with a health care crisis. That is the most difficult time to have to make decisions about advance directives. While you have the opportunity, take the time to discuss your plans with your family. You may also wish to seek advice from your doctor, lawyer, clergy, or counselor. You do not need a lawyer to complete the forms. Give signed copies to your family, doctor, and agent.

For further information ask your physician, attorney or contact the Lower Savannah Area Agency on Aging at (803) 649-7981.



Medicare

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEDICARE

Medicare Patient Rights

- You have the right to receive all the hospital care that is necessary for the proper diagnosis and treatment of your illness or injury. According to Federal Law, your discharge date must be determined solely by your medical needs, not by “DRGs” or Medicare payments.
- You have the right to be fully informed about decisions affecting your Medicare coverage and payment for your hospital stay and for any post-hospital services.
- You have the right to request a review by a Peer Review Organization of any written Notice of Noncoverage that you receive from the hospital stating that Medicare will no longer pay for your hospital care. Peer Review Organizations (PROs) are groups of doctors who are paid by the Federal Government to review medical necessity, appropriateness, and quality of hospital treatment furnished to Medicare patients. The phone number and address of the PRO for your area is:

Carolina Center for Medical Excellence
246 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 251-2215 local
(800) 922-3089 toll free
(803) 255-0897 fax

As a person who remains in the hospital for observation and outpatient services, you are considered an outpatient of the hospital, and are responsible for any unmet Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance that applies to those services. If you are subsequently admitted to the hospital as an inpatient during this stay, you will be considered an inpatient for the entire stay and therefore responsible for any Medicare Part A inpatient deductible and coinsurance that applies, rather than Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance.

When you are treated as an outpatient in a hospital, Medicare will not cover drugs that can be self-administered, such as pills that can be taken by mouth. Coverage of drugs is generally limited to those that are administered by injection. However, some oral cancer drugs may be covered when provided in an outpatient setting. Because the Medicare program will not pay for those items in an outpatient setting, you will be expected to pay for those services out of your pocket. If you have any questions about this message, please refer to your Medicare handbook or call the Medicare Customer Service Line at 1-800-868-2522.



Talk to Your Doctor About Your Stay In the Hospital

You and your doctor know more about your condition and your health needs than anyone else. Decisions about your medical treatment should be made between you and your doctor. If you have any questions about your medical treatment, your need for continued hospital care, your discharge, or your need for possible post-hospital care, don't hesitate to ask your doctor. Your nurse or the hospital social worker will also help you with your questions and concerns about hospital services.

If You Think You are Being Asked to Leave the Hospital Too Soon

- Ask a hospital representative for a written notice of explanation immediately, if you have not already received one. This notice is called a "Notice of Noncoverage." You must have this Notice of Noncoverage if you wish to exercise your right to request a review by the PRO.
- The Notice of Noncoverage will state either that your doctor or the PRO agrees with the hospital's decision that Medicare will no longer pay for your hospital care.
- If the hospital and your doctor agree, the PRO will not review your case before a Notice of Noncoverage is issued. But the PRO will respond to your opinion. You cannot be made to pay for your hospital care until the PRO makes its decision, if you request the review by noon of the first work day after you receive the Notice of Noncoverage.
- If the hospital and your doctor disagree, the hospital may request the PRO to review your case. If it does make such a request, the hospital is required to send you a notice to that effect. In this situation the PRO must agree with the hospital or the hospital cannot issue a Notice of Noncoverage. You may request that the PRO reconsider your case after you receive a Notice of Noncoverage but since the PRO has already reviewed your case once, you may have to pay for at least one day of hospital care before the PRO completes this reconsideration.

If you do not request a review, the hospital may bill you for all the costs of your stay beginning with the third day after you receive the Notice of Noncoverage. The hospital, however, cannot charge you for care unless it provides you with a Notice of Noncoverage.

How To Request A Review of The Notice of Noncoverage

- If the Health Insurance Notice of Noncoverage (HINN) states that your physician agrees with the hospital decision:
 - ❖ You must have your request for review to the PRO by noon of the first work day after you receive the Notice of Noncoverage by contacting the PRO by phone or in writing.



- ❖ The PRO must ask for your views about your case before making its decision. The PRO will inform you by phone and in writing of its decision on the review.
- ❖ If the PRO agrees with the Notice of Noncoverage, you may be billed for all costs of your stay beginning at noon of the day after you receive the PRO's decision.
- ❖ Thus, you will not be responsible for the cost of hospital care before you receive the PRO's decision.
- If the Notice of Noncoverage state the PRO agrees with the hospitals decision:
 - ❖ You should make your request for reconsideration to the PRO immediately upon receipt of the HINN by contacting the PRO by phone or in writing.
 - ❖ The PRO can take up to three working days from receipt of your request to complete the review. The PRO will inform you in writing of its decision on the review.
 - ❖ Since the PRO has already reviewed your case once, prior to the issuance of the HINN, the hospital is permitted to begin billing you for the cost of your stay beginning with the third calendar day after you receive that notice, even if the PRO has not completed its review.
 - ❖ Thus, if the PRO continues to agree with the Notice of Noncoverage, you may have to pay for at least one day of hospital care.

Note: The process described above is called “immediate review”. If you miss the deadline for this immediate review while you are in the hospital, you may still request a review of Medicare’s decision to no longer pay for your care at any point during your hospital stay or after you have left the hospital. The Notice of Noncoverage will tell you how to request this review.

Post-Hospital Care

When your doctor determines you no longer need all the specialized services provided in a hospital, but you still require medical care, he or she may discharge you to a skilled nursing facility or home care. The discharge planner at the hospital will help arrange for the services you may need after your discharge. Medicare and supplemental insurance policies have limited coverage for skilled nursing facility care, home healthcare, Long Term Acute Hospital (LTAC), nursing home, home care or outpatient services. Therefore, you should find out which services will or will not be covered and how preparations for care after you leave the hospital will be obtained. Don't hesitate to ask questions.

MEDICAL STAFF LISTING



Medical Staff Listing

ALLERGY

Anthony E. Harris, MD
648-7897
Gregory Esselman, MD
649-0003
Davor G. Sklizovic, MD
644-9200

CARDIAC SURGERY

Thomas P. Paxton, MD
641-4874
L. Dieter Voegelé, MD
641-4874

CARDIOLOGY

Ansermo L. Arthur, MD
641-4874
Preston D. Conger, Jr., MD
649-1173
David W. Cundey, MD
641-4874
Gregory L. Eaves, MD
641-4874
Idris Sharaf, MD
641-4874

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

David H. Gibbs, MD
648-1171
Edward J. Jakubs, Jr. MD
648-1171
Virginia B. Winburn, MD
648-1171

DERMATOLOGY

Richard S. Chesser, MD
641-0049
John R. Cook, MD
644-8900
Margaret H. Fitch, MD
649-3909

ENDOCRINOLOGY

R. Bauer Vaughters, MD
648-3130

FAMILY PRACTICE

James L. Bland, MD, JD
641-1404
John Baxley, MD
502-0502
S. Gilmore Eaves, MD
652-2241
Mae Jean Englee, MD
663-9224
Gary T. Fischbach, MD
643-3400
Amy Kulik, MD
648-8804
James N. Moore, III, MD
648-4224
Leopoldo L. Muniz, MD
642-3505

Howard G. Royal, Jr., MD
649-6941
Henry S. Tam, MD
648-4224
F. Michael Vasovski, DO
649-4446
Ray B. Vaughters, Jr., MD
649-2501
Bella K. Udani, MD
648-8804

GASTROENTEROLOGY

David S. Keisler, Jr., MD
648-7888
Hugh M. Leavens, MD
649-9200
Afsar M. Waraich, MD
649-4699

GERIATRICS

Raymond D. Hesse, MD
648-7888

HEMATOLOGY

Sitki M. Ergul, MD
641-7850
T. Mark Meyer, MD
648-7888

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Gerald Gordon, MD
649-5300

INTERNAL MEDICINE

William T. Besson, III, MD
648-7888
Preston D. Conger, Jr., MD
649-1173
Alyssa M. Degnan, D.O.
649-5300
Gerald Gordon, MD
649-5300
Raymond D. Hesse, MD
648-7888
David S. Keisler, Jr., MD
648-7888
T. Mark Meyer, MD
648-7888
Frank Mondschein, MD
649-5300
Shreedhar M. Nagnur, MD
648-1464
Randy D. Watson, MD
648-7818
Stephanie B. Woollen, MD
642-4045
Danijela S. Zotovic, MD
648-7888

NEPHROLOGY

Francis J. DiBona, MD
648-0718
Devesh R. Patel, MD
648-0718
Douglas A. Stahura, DO
648-0718
Hy C. Sussman, MD
648-0718

NEUROLOGY

Richard A. Eisenberg, MD
642-6500
Melvyn L. Haas, MD
642-6500
Khaled F. Kamel, MD
642-6500
R. Mummaneni, MD
642-6500

OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY

Cindy G. Besson, MD
(Gynecology Only)
648-0803
James F. Boehner, MD
649-7535
Robert D. Boone, MD
649-7535
Gasnel E. Bryan, MD
648-0874
Lloyd B. Daniels, MD
649-4117
Judith L. B. Hoover, MD
649-7746
Oletha R. Minto, MD
649-7535
Margo Muniz, MD
649-6366

ONCOLOGY

Sitki M. Ergul, MD
641-7850
Ahmad N. Gill, MD
641-7850
T. Mark Meyer, MD
648-7888

OPHTHALMOLOGY

R. Lee Grantham, MD
642-1000
Nini S. Patheja, MD
642-6060
Daniel J. Smith, MD
642-6060
Enoch N. Tsai, MD
649-7991

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

David S. Hudson, DMD
649-1177



Medical Staff Listing

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Ty W. Carter, MD
649-0563
Douglas E. Holford, MD
649-0563
R. Vaughan Massie, MD
649-0563
Clark D. Moore, MD
649-0563
Timothy J. Shannon, MD
649-0563

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Gregory Esselman, MD
649-0003
Anthony E. Harris, MD
648-7897
Davor G. Sklizovic, MD
644-9200

PEDIATRICS

Jonathan C. Collins, MD
642-9204
Paula Luther, MD
642-9204
Victoria M. Stoeppler, MD
649-0578
John B. Tiffany, MD
642-9204

PLASTIC/RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Dean A. Page, MD
642-0277

PODIATRY (ALLIED HEALTH)

George Sich, III, DPM
648-6988
Mackie J. Walker, DPM
649-3668

PSYCHIATRY

John A. Allen, MD
642-3801
Merry D. DeLeon, MD
641-5906
David A. Steiner, MD
642-3801

PULMONOLOGY/ CRITICAL CARE

Nicholas J. Sanito, DO
643-1090
Miroslav B. Zotovic, MD
643-1090

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Mark P. Ezekiel, MD
641-7850

RHEUMATOLOGY

Edwin V. Martinez de Andino,
MD
649-3333

SURGERY

Frank Y. Chase, MD
648-1318
Wayne T. Frei, MD
648-1318
James L. Hagan, MD
649-6380
Robert Terry, MD
648-1318

THORACIC AND VASCULAR SURGERY

Thomas P. Paxton, MD
641-4874
L. Dieter Voegele, MD
648-1318

UROLOGY

Jonathan H. Anderson, MD
649-3903
Richard P. von Buedingen,
MD
648-7815
Prakash N. Maniam, MD
979-1494

HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS

ANESTHESIOLOGY

Guy J. Caiafa, MD
Benjamin S. Ulmer, Jr., MD

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Stephen A.D. Grant, MD
F. Martin James, MD
Stephen J. Platte, MD
Clifford D. Staggs, MD
Douglas M. Weddle, MD
Edward W. Yeh, MD

HOSPITALISTS

Kashif Neseem, MD
Sushma Racharla, MD

PATHOLOGY

Allan D. Pierce, MD
Trent D. Trzpcuc, MD
Robert L. Williams, MD

RADIOLOGY

Alfonso Gay, Jr., MD
Ronald P. Robinson, MD
Robert F. Searles, DO
Anthony L. Toomer, MD

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Aurora Pavilion

(803) 641-5900 or
(800) 273-7911

Aurora Pavilion Behavioral Health Services is an attractive, contemporary 47-bed facility with a caring team of specialists trained to diagnose and treat mental health disorders. Treatment services include inpatient and day treatment for children, adolescents, adults, and seniors.

Aurora Pavilion has board-certified psychiatrists along with a team of behavioral health experts including nurses, mental health technicians, Master's level clinicians, and recreation therapists.

We offer a comprehensive individualized treatment plan in which family participation is encouraged. Intensive inpatient care includes medical care, individual and group therapy, family therapy, recreation therapy, and aftercare planning.

Our partial hospitalization program offers intensive treatment while letting patients live at home. We have intensive Outpatient programs available. Please call for more information on these programs.

Cancer Care Institute of Carolina (803) 641-7850

The best available methods of cancer care are provided at the Cancer Care Institute of Carolina. Many new procedures are noninvasive, meaning there's no need for open surgery.

Radiation therapy treats cancer by destroying cancer cells with radiant energy. Radiation therapy is given as a series of daily treatments, each about 30 minutes. They usually can be arranged around a patient's work schedule.

The total treatment time is anywhere between two to eight weeks, depending on the type of tumor. Most patients are pleasantly surprised to find that their treatment was not as difficult as they expected it to be. Patients of all ages can be treated successfully with radiation therapy.

Chemotherapy is a group of different drugs that are designed to destroy cancer cells or slow their growth. Chemotherapy drugs can be given as an IV or sometimes orally.

At the new institute, we perform cancer treatments on an outpatient basis with state of the art equipment. Our attractive comfortable facility has nine exam rooms, a large chemotherapy suite, administration areas and a conference room.



Department Highlights



Cardiovascular Institute of Carolina (803) 641-4874

For superb cardiac care, combining warmth and personal attention with leading edge technology, there's no better place than the Cardiovascular Institute of Carolina at Aiken Regional Medical Centers.

We augment our medical and surgical treatments with preventive education, teaching patients and their families to embrace healthy, rewarding lifestyles.

At the Cardiovascular Institute, specially trained physicians use advanced diagnostic equipment, such as, electrocardiograms, treadmill stress testing, cardiac catheterization, and intravascular ultrasound. Non-invasive treatments include: thrombolytic therapy, medications, and cardiac rehabilitation. Invasive treatments include: coronary angioplasty, atherectomy, coronary stents, pacemakers, implantable defibrillators, and open-heart surgery.

At the Cardiovascular Institute, our goal is to prepare patients and their families for what they can expect before invasive and surgical procedures. The Cardiac Clinical Specialist and the Surgical Nurse act as liaison between the physician and the patient's family, updating and educating them as surgery progresses. We educate our patients about heart disease and the importance of nutrition and exercise that will help restore them to overall health and enable them to live a more active lifestyle.

Diabetes & Nutrition Teaching Center (803) 293-0023

The Diabetes and Nutrition Teaching Center of Aiken Regional Medical Centers offers the most advanced treatment and self-management training of diabetes and individual special nutritional needs in the region. The Center's friendly experts help adults and adolescents meet the challenge of living well with diabetes, as well as those unique nutritional needs associated with all types of health issues.

The Diabetes and Nutrition Teaching Center's team of specialists provides personalized treatment and education that can empower individuals to self-manage their diabetes, and therefore maintain better health. Our fully integrated system of diabetes care encompasses physician support, case management, and clinical interventions, and is nationally accredited by the American Diabetes Association.

Our interdisciplinary team of specialists provides self-management training sessions complete with follow-up support. The Diabetes and Nutrition Teaching Center offers the most advanced means of patient assessment and care through the use of the latest technology, as well as group and individual self-management sessions. These measures equip Aiken Regional Medical Centers to improve the lives of patients with diabetes.



In addition, the Diabetes and Nutrition Teaching Center provides outpatient guidance for all individual nutritional and weight reduction needs. Our dietary specialist can assist your physician in addressing the specific needs and goals for *your* over-all health.

The *Diabetes and Nutrition Teaching Center...* meeting all of your in-hospital and outpatient diabetes and nutritional needs.

Imaging Center of Aiken (803) 648-2000

The Imaging Center of Aiken is located within one-mile of the campus of Aiken Regional Medical Centers. The center provides out patient services including Ultrasound, MRI, CT, and diagnostic services. The Ultrasound and MRI are accredited by the American College of Radiology and operated by licensed, qualified technologists.

Joint Pain Center (803) 641-5451

Aiken Regional's Joint Pain Center specializes in the care of patients undergoing hip, knee, and shoulder replacement surgery. Our 10-bed unit is unique in a hospital setting. We emphasize wellness and patient satisfaction, because these are vital factors in successful recuperation. At the Joint Pain Center, our attitude is that you are not sick but are just temporarily inconvenienced by a sick joint. The dedicated teams of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and social workers help our patients and their families transition through the recovery period quickly and safely.

Joint replacement patients and their caregivers are invited to an instructional preoperative class, where they learn about their surgery and recuperation and have their questions answered. We believe a lack of knowledge is a major cause of pre-surgery fears.

Patients are encouraged to have a "coach" with them throughout their hospitalization. A coach is the caregiver who will participate in your physical therapy and continue support when you return home.

The Joint Pain Center's goal is to return you to the quality of life you enjoyed before experiencing joint pain.

Sleep Evaluation Center (803) 641-5370

The Sleep Evaluation Center at Aiken Regional Medical Centers is dedicated to the successful diagnosis of sleep related disorders. It contains four private bedrooms equipped with modern equipment to perform specialized studies of breathing, seizures, and abnormal behaviors during sleep. Sleep studies are usually conducted at night and efforts have been made to make your stay as close to home as possible. The Sleep Evaluation Center's clean, spacious sleeping rooms include a full-size bed, recliner, cable TV, and DVD/VCR player. A sleep technologist is available throughout the sleep study to attend to any patient needs or questions.



Women's LifeCare Center

(803) 641-5800

The Women's LifeCare Center is staffed with medical professionals who provide compassionate care in an attractive, comfortable setting. The Center has a private entrance, private rooms, private waiting suites, and a parking area convenient to our patients.

Our goal is to provide a healing environment that women and their families can count on for life.

Whatever problem a woman faces – whether it's related to menopause, breast health, osteoporosis or estrogen replacement therapy – we can help. Full-service care for women includes medical, surgical, and gynecological care. We also have experts in reconstructive and general cosmetic surgery.

Delivering your baby at Women's LifeCare Center is a special experience for you and your family. Our family-centered unit includes seven labor/delivery/recovery rooms and an operating/recovery suite area. We also have a Level I Neonatal Unit that cares for healthy newborn babies and a Level II Neonatal Unit to care for babies with special needs.

Our 17-bed postpartum unit cares for new mothers and women undergoing special procedures.

The unit has additional security measures for the safety of all new parents. The nursery viewing window faces out to our waiting area so that family and friends can see newborns without disturbing other patients.

For babies whose conditions require special monitoring, telemetry units are available in the room so that baby and mother can stay together.

Women's LifeCare Diagnostic Services (803) 641-5065

Caring female technologists who are fully accredited in both mammography and radiology staff the center.

Among the services offered at the Women's LifeCare Diagnostic Services are:

Mammography

Your best defense against breast disease is early detection. Regular mammography is the smartest way to detect breast abnormalities. The earlier they're discovered, the more likely they can be treated successfully. Women's LifeCare Diagnostic Services has two mammography units so you can schedule an appointment right away and get the results quickly.



Stereotactic biopsy

If your doctor says you should have a stereotactic biopsy, have it done by professionals who specialize in women's health at Women's LifeCare Diagnostic Services.

Bone densitometry

Make sure you are not developing osteoporosis by having your bone density scanned with the advanced technology of our GE LUNAR bone densitometer.

Routine X-rays

Have routine diagnostic X-rays – such as chest, spine, abdomen, extremities or others – in the convenient location of Women's LifeCare Diagnostic Services.

Women's LifeCare Diagnostic Services is accredited by the American College of Radiology and certified by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Wound Healing Institute

(803) 643-2090

The Wound Healing Institute's team of dedicated physicians and nurses provides individualized treatment programs for all wounds based on the patient's special needs. The program includes regular visits to the Wound Healing Institute to provide treatment, evaluate progress, and make any changes that might be needed. The patient is given detailed instructions in home care, dressing (bandage) changes, and protecting the wound from further injury. The Wound Healing Institute also works with the patient's personal doctor and other specialists to address the underlying cause. For most patients, healing occurs in just a few months. The Institute's wound healing program has proven to be so effective that its healing rate is 92.2%, compared to a national average of 88%. While the national median is 35 days to heal, the median days to heal rate at the Wound Healing Institute of Carolina is 25 days.

If your physician determines that you are a candidate to receive hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBOT) as part of your wound treatment plan, this course of treatment can be highly beneficial. Hyperbaric oxygen treatment is a treatment in which the patient breathes 100% oxygen inside a pressurized chamber. The treatment quickly delivers high concentrations of oxygen to the bloodstream, assists in the healing process of wounds and is effective in fighting certain types of infections.

If you suffer from a wound don't wait until an infection or gangrene threatens you with the loss of a limb . . . call the Wound Healing Institute now at 803-643-2090. We can help you get back on your feet and back into life. Remember: The only wound we can't heal is a healed wound.



Community Outreach

Business and Industry Wellness

ARMC works with area businesses to analyze the healthcare needs of their employees. We then tailor programs or services to these specific needs, keeping employees healthier and saving money for employers.

Health Information Center

ARMC's Health Information Center is located inside the Aiken Mall. The Center is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Health Information Center offers expanded health information, a variety of screening services, physician referral and appointment scheduling with ARMC-affiliated physicians. For more information about the Health Information Center, please call 641-5926 or 1-800-641-2771.

Programs, Support Groups, Services

ARMC provides dozens of classes, support groups and services, several of which are listed below. To receive an updated list of the hospital's programs and services, please call our Marketing Department at 641-5926.

JUST FOR KIDS

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training
Home Alone
Teens Under Fire (TUF)

SENIOR WELLNESS

The Breakfast Club (includes seminar)
55 Alive (Driver Safety Course for Mature drivers)
Wise Outrageous Women (WOW)

HEALTH EDUCATION

Heart Seminars
Hip and Knee Pain Seminar

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Breastfeeding Epidural Class
Childbirth Preparation Modern Grandparents
Childbirth Refresher Sibling Class

FIRST AID & CPR

CPR for Friends and Family
Standard First Aid CPR & AED



SUPPORT GROUPS

AA Meeting – Open Discussion
Aiken Cares Alzheimer’s Support Group
Look Good Feel Better
Mended Hearts
Pink Ribbonettes
CAN HOPE
Teens Under Fire
Cancer Support Group
Wise Outrageous Women
CSRA Dream Catchers – Traumatic Brain Injury & Disability
Diabetes Support Group
Weight Wise Support Group
Essential Tremors

Senior Wellness (803) 641-5926 or (800) 641-2771

Senior Wellness is Aiken Regional Medical Centers’ health and wellness program for people 50 and over. Senior Wellness provides a wide variety of services, seminars, educational programs, events, and activities.

Best of all, membership in the Senior Wellness program is absolutely FREE!

Services include –

Discount Program – provides members with discounts from more than 100 merchants and service providers in Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, and Saluda counties.

Seminars/Activities – Senior Wellness members enjoy a variety of social events, educational seminars, and group tours.

Blood Pressure Screenings/Health Fairs – Health screenings are available at the Health Information Center in the Aiken Mall.

Discount Travel Program – Senior Wellness members can enjoy traveling with other 50+ adults on specially-designed tours. All trips depart from the ARMC campus and best of all, all tours are cost effective, you enjoy the comfort of a deluxe motorcoach and are escorted by a professional tour guide.

Senior Wellness Newsletter – Informative newsletter mailed to your home. Keeps you current on upcoming Senior Wellness events and programs.

Web Site Information

Visit www.aikenregional.com for healthier living just a few clicks away. Our Web site features an in-depth health information library, upcoming community events/programs, physician referral information, our virtual nursery, the Quality of Life magazine and employment opportunities.