

# GREAT RIVER health update

Spring 2024

Right **place**. Right **care**. Right **here**.



**Employees who shine**  
2024 Excellence in Practice  
award recipients



Award -  
winning  
healthcare  
providers

Bariatric  
Surgery  
coming soon  
+ updates on  
clinics, and  
equipment

Great River  
Health is a  
great place  
to work:  
employees  
in the  
spotlight

Where to go  
for the right  
care

How our  
Foundation  
gives back to  
southeast  
Iowa



**Together** we will continue to make a **positive impact** on the health of our communities.

— Michael McCoy | President & CEO



**Dear Community Members,**

Our commitment to serve and enhance our community through high quality healthcare services remains at the heart of what we do.

I am proud to share with you some updates and thoughts on what has been happening at Great River Health.

To begin, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated team of healthcare professionals who work diligently to provide compassionate care to every individual who walks through our doors. We held our annual employee award celebration at the end of February recognizing our Excellence in Practice award recipients and honoring our employees who reached years of service milestones. It was a true celebration of the amazing employees who work across the health system. We continue to explore innovative ways to recruit talented and committed healthcare professionals to add to our incredible team.

It is our goal to make quality healthcare accessible to all, whether in one of our Henry County Health Center rural health clinics, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center clinics, or our Walk-In Clinics. This motivates

us to make changes as necessary to keep these outpatient clinics viable and ready for you when you need our healthcare services.

Finally, I am excited about the addition of new equipment and service lines that will keep us at the forefront of healthcare in our region.

As we look toward the future, I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead. With your continued support and trust, we stay dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of our communities, one patient at a time.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you. Together we will continue to make a positive impact on the health of our communities.

Warm regards,

**Michael McCoy, MD | President & CEO**

# Skilled Nursing and Rehab

## reopening at Klein Center 2024



Klein Center in West Burlington opened in a brand-new facility in 2013, offering long-term care, skilled nursing, and rehabilitation services that assist patients in restoring independence, mobility, and overall well-being after an injury, surgery, or illness.



Klein Center's skilled rehab area on the second floor, known as Madison Avenue, was unable to accept patients beginning Summer 2022. The decision to close Madison Avenue and only care for long-term residents was due to unforeseen circumstances related to COVID-19 and nursing shortages. In January 2024, Great River Health announced the re-opening of Madison Avenue.



Klein Center is a 5-star facility on Compare Care and is one of only seven 5-star facilities in a 50-mile radius according to Medicare.gov. Klein Center sits across the lake from Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, and offers scenic views of the lake and gardens that surround the building. Inside Klein, Madison Avenue is where patients receive rehabilitation care after their hospital stays.



Skilled care often begins when a patient has stayed more than three overnights in the hospital and would benefit from extended services. Depending on a patient's insurance, some may require a pre-authorization to qualify for skilled care. A high percentage of skilled care admissions result from medical or surgical procedures such as hip fractures, joint replacements, or a medical event such as a heart attack, stroke, GI bleed, or pneumonia.



Our physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and nurses work with patients to create comprehensive care plans to help restore or improve patient's physical,

cognitive, or functional abilities. With skilled care, the primary objective is always to help patients fully recover or to assist them in regaining the highest level of function and independence.

The Klein Center is unique in being one of the only care facilities in the area that offers all private rooms and bathrooms to residents. Klein Center also offers living and dining areas specifically designated for skilled patients.

Other amenities include:

- Beauty shop
- Chapel
- Gathering Hall
- Restorative gym (A rehabilitation gym with physical therapy and occupational therapy.)
- Business office
- Coffee shop
- Library

Three-time resident Barb Carmen shared what kept her choosing Klein Center for her extended care, "The care is terrific; I can tell they care about me, and they like their jobs. The Klein Center is also close to my family so that they can visit me anytime."

The reopening of skilled services at Klein has been a much needed and welcomed addition to the services we offer. Vice President of Post Acute Care, Beth Fleming, said, "Klein's skilled census has been full since its reopening, and we are thrilled to announce that we plan to double the capacity in the coming months. We are very proud of our 92% return to home rate. Our therapists and nursing staff work hard to meet the needs of our residents along with setting aggressive goals to achieve their desired outcome. Klein is proud to be a part of the health system, following our motto, Right **Place**, Right **Care**, Right **Here**."



# Rural Health Clinics provide care close to home

When it comes to caring for your family's medical needs, access to quality healthcare is vital. Great River Health meets this need by providing primary care on all three hospital campuses located in West Burlington, Fort Madison, and Mount Pleasant. However, primary care is also available to those individuals in rural communities throughout Southeast Iowa.

Henry County Health Center Clinics are committed to providing convenient, local access to healthcare for the region's rural areas. Our full-service clinics offer same-day appointments for illness and injury, with a full range of health services available for all ages, including laboratory testing, well-child exams and immunizations, men's and women's health, chronic

disease management, wellness and prevention, specialty procedures, and more.

For patients requiring additional hospital services, our clinic providers work closely with Henry County Health Center and Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center departments to provide seamless care. The wide range of services at these hospitals enables patients to receive care close to home. Our shared medical record system allows providers at any clinic to access patient's health information.

The clinics are accepting new patients of all ages, and accept most insurance plans, including Medicare.

## Great River Health Clinic Locations



### Keokuk Clinic

3285 Main St.  
Keokuk, IA  
319-524-6274

### Wapello Clinic

220 Mulberry St.,  
Suite A  
Wapello, IA  
888-377-7791

### Mediapolis Clinic

401 S. Orchard St.  
Mediapolis, IA  
319-394-3177

### Wayland Clinic

227 W. Main St.,  
Suite 1  
Wayland, IA  
319-256-7100

### Mount Pleasant Clinic

407 S. White St.,  
Suite 103  
Mount Pleasant, IA  
319-385-6770

### Winfield Clinic

110 W. Pine St.  
Winfield, IA  
319-257-6211

### New London Clinic

111 W. Washington St.  
New London, IA  
319-367-2241

# Breast Health personalized care

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. This statistic remains one of the driving reasons behind the push for annual mammograms for all women starting at the age of 40. Early detection allows for better treatment options, and it is proven women who have an annual mammogram are less likely to die from the disease.

Great River Health is investing in updated mammography machines to ensure all women have access to breast cancer screening. Seven new 3D mammogram machines, known as tomosynthesis, are being installed across the health system with the first two in place at SEIRMC — Fort Madison and HCHC. These new FUJIFILM machines bring the latest innovation, comfort, and clarity to our Diagnostic Imaging Departments.

“We looked at four different vendors before choosing FUJIFILM mammogram machines. We took a team of mammography technologists to evaluate different machines at other facilities. We then had our radiologists review the images for quality and clarity. At the end of this vetting process, we chose FUJIFILM. The key factor, though is providing our patients with the best technology to drive better outcomes through early detection,” explained Greg Fields, Great River Health Vice President of Diagnostic Imaging.

Creating a personalized care pathway will now be a standard part of breast health at Great River Health. With the integration of new software, a personalized pathway for each patient will be available based on known risk factors, breast density, and family history. As part of the standard intake process,

patients complete a questionnaire with a series of questions regarding personal and family history. With the patient’s consent, a free risk modeling and risk assessment is created unique to them. This information along with breast density is used in risk model calculations to provide a comprehensive picture of the patient’s cancer risk. This scorecard will be used by your radiologist and healthcare provider to determine your care plan which may include further testing.

Improved patient experience is a key component to encouraging annual testing. The new mammogram machines offer faster overall compression and more comfortable paddles. Other fun additions include gown warmers, new robes, and hand warmers for the technologists. Each diagnostic team will also choose the wrap on the machine, giving it more personal touch.

Great River Health provides mammograms at the following locations:

**Outpatient Services Plaza,**  
1321 South Gear Avenue, West Burlington

**Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center,**  
1221 South Gear Avenue, West Burlington

**Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center,**  
5409 Avenue O, Fort Madison

**Henry County Health Center,**  
407 South White Street, Mount Pleasant

**Keokuk Clinic,**  
3285 Main Street, Keokuk

It is important all women over the age of 40 discuss getting screened for breast cancer with their healthcare provider. It could save your life!



# Urgent Care renamed

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To enhance clarity and accessibility, the Urgent Care clinics in West Burlington and Fort Madison are being renamed to Walk-In Clinic. There will be no change to the providers or healthcare services offered at either location.

This change, while primarily cosmetic, highlights Great River Health's commitment to providing quality, convenient, and affordable medical care to residents in Southeast Iowa.

Our Walk-In Clinics serve as a vital resource for those seeking prompt medical attention for non-life-threatening conditions. From sudden illnesses like severe colds and the flu to injuries such as sprains and strains, they offer diagnosis and treatment when you can't wait for an appointment or when other clinics are closed.

With a full range of care, including on-site laboratory and X-ray services, you can expect the same level of expertise and attention to your healthcare needs.

The Great River Health Walk-In Clinics are suitable for everyone six months and older, especially those who either lack a primary care provider or need extended clinic hours.

As the name suggests, appointments are walk-in only, allowing you to simply show up and receive the healthcare you need, with the option of a follow-up with your primary care provider.

With this clinic name change, Great River Health continues to foster a more transparent and accessible approach to medical care delivery, ensuring that the community's health remains a top priority and that residents have the right care at the right place at the right time.

For a comprehensive list of services and additional information regarding our Walk-In Clinics, we encourage you to visit our website:

[greatriverhealth.org](http://greatriverhealth.org)

## **Walk-In Clinic Hours**

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

## **Walk-In Clinic Locations**

***Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center,  
Fort Madison***

5409 Avenue O, Ste. 120, Fort Madison, IA 52627  
319-376-2743

***Outpatient Services Plaza,  
West Burlington***

1321 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington, IA 52655  
319-768-4320



## Where should I go for the right care, right now?

1.



**I have a runny nose, cough, sore throat, or an ear ache. (Ugh.)**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

2.



**My child has a weird new rash and it's the weekend.**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

5.



**It's time for the whole family to get their flu shots or another vaccine.**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

3.



**I'm pretty sure I've broken a bone and it's not protruding the skin.**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

6.



**I don't have a primary care physician, but I need to see someone this week.**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

4.



**My parent is experiencing heart attack or stroke symptoms.**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

7.



**As a resident of Southeast Iowa, where can I access prompt, quality, and affordable health care?**

A) Walk-In Clinic

B) Primary Care Clinic

C) Emergency Department

# Need a Primary Care Provider? these providers are accepting new patients!

## FAMILY MEDICINE | WEST BURLINGTON | 319-768-1570



Sandra Worrell, MD  
MERCY PLAZA  
319-768-1570



Clyde Grady, MD  
MERCY PLAZA  
319-768-1570



Patrick Bredar, PA-C  
AGENCY RD.  
319-754-4242



Hannah Heckart, MD  
AGENCY RD.  
319-754-4242



Amy Nanthan, MD  
AGENCY RD.  
319-754-4242



Cole Roberts, FNP-C  
AGENCY RD.  
319-754-4242

## FAMILY MEDICINE | FORT MADISON | 319-376-2134



Ruth Barosy, MD



Kaitlyn Fedler, DNP



Amy Gnann, FNP



Maureen Heitmeier, ARNP



John Thurman, DO



Amy Wallis, ARNP



David Wenger-Keller, MD

## HENRY COUNTY HEALTH CENTER CLINICS | KEOKUK, MEDIAPOLIS, MOUNT PLEASANT, NEW LONDON, WAYLAND, WINFIELD, WAPELLO



Bev Christy, ARNP  
KEOKUK  
319-524-6274



Adam Culver, DNP  
KEOKUK  
319-524-6274



Katelyn Thurman, ARNP  
KEOKUK  
319-524-6274



Naarah Hauenstein, PA-C  
MEDIAPOLIS  
319-394-3177



Mitalee Dharwadkar, MD  
MOUNT PLEASANT  
319-385-6770



Trina Smith, ARNP  
MOUNT PLEASANT  
319-385-6770  
NEW LONDON  
319-367-2241



Sylvia Graber, ARNP  
NEW LONDON  
319-367-2241



Jessi Richmond, ARNP  
WAYLAND  
319-256-7100  
WINFIELD  
319-257-6211

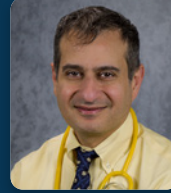


Lori LaFayette, PA-C  
WAPELLO  
888-377-7791

## INTERNAL MEDICINE | WEST BURLINGTON, FORT MADISON



Ayesha Javed, MD  
WEST BURLINGTON  
319-768-3200



John Rashid, MD  
WEST BURLINGTON  
319-768-3200



Pauline Mungai, MD  
FORT MADISON  
319-376-2725

## PEDIATRICS | FORT MADISON | 319-372-5437



Bryan Blacker, MD



Greg Gorski, MD



Megan Warneke, MD



### Want to learn more?

Scan for more info about our providers, watch videos, and find out how to contact us.



# Recruitment and Retention key drivers of success

### Recruiting and retaining good employees

takes a well-thought-out plan, utilizing a full battery of tools. Great River Health has implemented new initiatives over the past few years to build a pipeline for recruiting new employees while also appreciating the importance of retaining current staff.

Realizing the nursing shortage was not going away any time soon, Great River Health partnered with Southeastern Community College (SCC) in Spring of 2022 to encourage more students to enter the nursing program. With the support of the Great River Health Foundation, over \$930,000 has been distributed to provide financial assistance to students in the nursing program.

Building on the success of this initiative, Great River Health and SCC enhanced their partnership to create a radiologic technology program. The 24-month

program is scheduled to start in the fall of 2024. In addition to housing the program classroom, simulation lab facilities and staff offices, Great River Health will underwrite the cost of two faculty positions and offer a limited number of student sponsorships.

Great River Health was recognized at the Greater Burlington Partnership Annual Dinner as the 2023 Champion of Hidden Talent for launching the Right Choice, Internal Resource Pool. The Right Choice, Internal Resource Pool provides a more flexible working option for nurses. As employees of Great River Health, they can self-schedule the shift and location they want to work based on available staffing needs. These nurses receive a higher rate of pay but are not eligible to receive benefits. Right Choice, Internal Resource Pool, is the right choice for nurses wanting stability, flexibility, and variety.

The retention of current staff has been a focus of Michael Yost, Executive Vice President of Human Resources. He started with Great River Health in February of 2023 and has been busy realigning the Human Resources Department to better support the needs of the organization. Along with being involved in the creation of the Right Choice program, other work highlights include:

- **Total Rewards Program** puts all employee benefits information in one convenient place for both employees and prospective employees. Covering both an employee’s personal and professional needs, Total Rewards provides beneficial resources.
- **Culture Advisory Council** is an employee driven committee consisting of employees from various business units, levels, and locations throughout the health system. The members were chosen through an application process and serve as cultural ambassadors, actively contributing to and promoting the desired culture within Great River Health.
- **Employee Engagement Survey** seeks valuable feedback from our employees to improve the current work experience and drive new opportunities for enhancement. This annual survey and subsequent action plans will continue to build upon the success of the organization in retaining high quality employees.

Visit our Careers page for more information: [greatriverhealth.org/careers](https://greatriverhealth.org/careers)

# Our Employees shine

Serving Southeast Iowa with a team of 2,539 dedicated employees, Great River Health knows our strength lies in our people. Our employees are the heart of our health system, and their impact extends far beyond the walls of our campuses and clinics. From their talents to their commitment to making a difference in the lives of patients, our employees truly do shine. Through innovative projects, acts of kindness, and reaching professional milestones, they continuously exemplify excellence.

## Dr. John Thurman named the 2023 Iowa Family Physician of the Year



Speaking of professional milestones – this fall, Dr. John Thurman was named the 2023 Iowa Family Physician of the Year by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians. He adds to the legacy of excellence with three other family physicians from Great River Health who have received this honor: Dr. David Carlson in 2005, Dr. Michael AbouAssaly in 2010, and Dr. Doug Peters in 2011.

Nominated by patients Curt and Ginnie Swarm who had this to say, “He’s an excellent doctor, great communicator and motivator, has a wonderful sense of humor, and really cares for each and every one of his patients, whom he considers personal friends.”



Iowa Academy of Family Physicians Award  
Dinner Attendees.

Dr. Michael McCoy, President and CEO of Great River Health, expressed pride in having Dr. Thurman as part of Great River Health, “We are proud to have Dr. Thurman as part of our medical team. The kindness and care he provides for his patients is a true reflection of the care we feel our patients deserve.”

The Iowa Academy of Family Physicians honors outstanding family physicians and educators. The Family Physician of the Year Award is presented to a family physician who was nominated by a patient and exemplifies what it means to be not only a great family physician but an active participant in their community.

## 2024 Excellence In Practice

Great River Health recognized individuals at our Extraordinary Achievement Awards Banquet on February 29. Employees were recognized for their years of service with recognition spanning from five years and up to an astounding 45 years of commitment! We recognized 59 employees for 25 years or more with the health system. The Extraordinary Achievement Awards Banquet also highlighted our 24 Excellence in Practice Award finalists and announced the eight award recipients. Excellence in Practice is our premiere recognition program at Great River Health, individuals can be nominated in one of eight different categories: Advanced Practice Professional Excellence, Clinical Excellence, Community Excellence, Leadership Excellence, Nursing Excellence, Physician Excellence, Rookie Excellence, and Service Excellence.



Your 2024 Excellence in Practice Award Recipients are as pictured:

**Front row**

- Clinical Excellence: Emma Kruse
- Advanced Practice Professional Excellence: Tiffany Rhoades
- Service Excellence: Rebecca Crew
- Nursing Excellence: Brandi Settles
- Rookie Excellence: Gabrielle Kemper
- Leadership Excellence: Shauna Freitag

**Back Row**

- Physician Excellence: Loren Reed
- Community Excellence: Shane Tapper

**Share Your Story!**



Cathie Hanks-Sattler



Heather Goetsch



Katelyn Pezley



Tyler Meldrum



Alexis Moore



Eileen Mulholland

## The DAISY Award

When registered nurses at Great River Health receive The DAISY Award, it means they went above and beyond in providing compassionate care. The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that seeks to honor the invaluable work of nurses by honoring those who demonstrate exceptional clinical expertise, compassionate care, and a deep commitment to patients and their families.

The award was established by the DAISY Foundation, established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes in memory of him. Recipients of the award can be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues who have been touched by the extraordinary care of registered nurses.

The recognition of registered nurses through the DAISY award encompasses not only the deserving recipients but also their colleagues and loved ones. The award ceremony highlights the heartfelt stories shared by patients, family members, and co-workers, demonstrating the care and compassion exemplified by these extraordinary nurses.

Our latest DAISY Award recipients of 2024 are:

- Cathie Hanks-Sattler
- Heather Goetsch
- Katelyn Pezley
- Tyler Meldrum
- Alexis Moore
- Eileen Mulholland

**Scan to learn more**  
about The DAISY Award  
or fill out an electronic  
nomination.





## Great River Health Foundation update

Connecting the health system with the communities we serve, the Great River Health Foundation partners with community members, organizations, and businesses to raise the financial resources necessary to support the continued delivery of high-quality healthcare in Southeast Iowa.

The Foundation's impact has grown in our region through strategic investments in the healthcare talent pipeline at Southeastern Community College, by serving healthcare-related needs through the Patient Assistance Fund, and through increasing support for local scholarships and charities in our community.

The Foundation has supported numerous local, employee-selected charities through funding from the annual employee campaign.



**Donate to the  
Great River Health Foundation  
today!**

## HCHC Foundation puts safety first for EMS

Donors to the Henry County Health Center Foundation recently made a significant impact on the safety of the Henry County Emergency Medical Services (HCEMS) team.

Due to the generosity of many individuals, businesses, clubs, and organizations that contributed to the Make A Difference (MAD) for EMS campaign, the HCHC Foundation was able to purchase enhanced multi-threat safety vests for each EMT and paramedic on the team. These bullet, stab, and strike resistant vests provide EMTs and paramedics with an extra level of safety so they can give lifesaving support without hesitation.

The goal of the campaign was exceeded, so additional safety plates for the vests may be purchased as well as providing vests for future members of the HCEMS team.



**Donate to the Henry County  
Health Center Foundation  
today!**





## Volunteers make a difference

Volunteering is one of the greatest ways to make a difference in your community. Great River Health System has many opportunities for anyone wanting to volunteer in the healthcare field in southeast Iowa.

Why volunteer? Volunteering builds new friendships, is healthy for the mind and body, can bring fulfillment to one's life, and gives one an increased sense of purpose.

**"I enjoy my volunteer day, it's an opportunity to interact with the public and the hospital staff as well as my fellow volunteers."**

**"I have been blessed with my family, friends, and work life. Now that I am retired, I find volunteering a great way to pay it forward."**

**"I initially started to help fill some time when I retired, and my husband passed away. Now I continue because I enjoy being around the people I work with and being appreciated by those we work for!"**

Great River Health offers a variety of volunteer opportunities that range from working in gift shops, escorting patients and visitors, to helping behind the scenes. Volunteer roles are based on availability, experience, interests, and skills.

There are multiple locations throughout the health system where one can donate time, talents, and resources.

To learn more about volunteering at Henry County Health Center, contact Volunteer Services at (319) 385-6524 or fill out the application online at [hchc.org](http://hchc.org).

To learn more about volunteering at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center on either the Fort Madison or West Burlington campuses, Klein Center, or Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice please contact Volunteer Services at (319) 768-3340. To apply online go to [greatriverhealth.org](http://greatriverhealth.org).

- Henry County Health Center, located in Mount Pleasant, has opportunities in the gift shop and at the information desk. For anyone looking for a high-impact volunteer assignment, there are positions available in the Lifeline and Senior Health Insurance Programs as well as Patient/Family Ambassador positions in the Surgical Services and Medical/Surgical Departments.
- Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center has opportunities in West Burlington and Fort Madison including Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice. Hospice volunteers are a vital part of the services provided to patients and their families at end of life. Alongside our healthcare team, volunteers bring a personal touch while providing services essential to hospice care. We proudly serve Hospice patients in Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa, and VanBuren counties.

# Pharmacy healthcare with a personal touch

Within the last year, Great River Health has proudly added two new Heritage Pharmacy locations. You can now find Heritage Pharmacy in Fort Madison at 3032 Avenue L and inside Henry County Health Center!

When seeking a pharmacy that offers the convenience and care you want for you and your loved ones, we invite you to explore the offerings at Great River Health. Get acquainted with some of our exceptional pharmacists!



## Heritage Pharmacy



**Want to learn more?**

Scan for more info and a complete list of our contact information.

**Allison Jones**, PharmD, always knew she wanted to work in healthcare and care for people. As her older sister was graduating pharmacy school and Allison was embarking on her own career path, everything pointed her in the direction of pharmacy as her future profession.

Jones grew up in Southeast Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. She has worked in retail pharmacy since 2006, now serving as pharmacist at Heritage Pharmacy-Mount Pleasant, located on the Henry County Health Center campus.

"I love the fact that as Lead Pharmacist at Heritage Pharmacy-Mount Pleasant, I can really get to know

each of our patients individually. My job allows and encourages me the time to get to know our patients' healthcare desires and concerns, and to build a personal connection with patients so that I can truly be a member of their healthcare team," explained Jones.

The Mount Pleasant pharmacy opened in April 2023 and provides a special level of service for patients. "We have a very small staff that includes me and Certified Pharmacy Technician Allie Eisenmann. This means that patients see the same faces every time they are in, and we have the time to accommodate more personal requests," said Jones. "We love to help people, so our patients are encouraged to just ask if they need something."

When **Amy Moffett**, PharmD, began her career in pharmacy, there was a full circle moment that she could recall from childhood memories. Amy said she and a childhood friend would engage in imaginative games, where she would make up pretend medications to aid in their make-believe conditions. This early inclination toward science and medicine laid the foundation for her interest in the field. Amy said she always had an interest in science, her curiosity about various medications mixed with some inspiration from Tom Greene, a pharmacist who worked at Great River Health for many years and, her mother who filled in at the old pharmacy in K-Mart helped solidify her career choice.

Amy has been with the health system for 23 years. She primarily works at Heritage Park Pharmacy, West Burlington, but you might also find her at Heritage Family Pharmacy, West Burlington. When asked what she enjoys most about her role as a pharmacist she said, "I enjoy the daily interactions with patients. Building trust through education and addressing their concerns is fulfilling." Amy further emphasized the longevity of the pharmacy staff at Great River Health, highlighting how it fosters meaningful relationships with patients and colleagues over time.

**Jacqueline Johnson-Onesto**, PharmD, has 30 years of invaluable pharmacy experience under her belt. From the outset, Jacqueline knew she wanted a profession where she could care for others. Her compassion shines through in her role as a pharmacist, where she said she finds fulfillment in actively contributing to patients' healthcare journeys and being a part of their healthcare team.

Jacqueline began her career with the health system in 1988, starting as a pharmacy technician while pursuing her education to become a pharmacist. After dedicating over 20 years as a retail pharmacist in Burlington, she returned to the health system in July 2023 with the opening of Heritage Pharmacy - Fort Madison, where she is now!

Jacqueline has developed remarkable patient relationships throughout Southeast Iowa. Many of these patients followed her back to the health system where her career first began, a testament to her care and expertise. Reflecting on her journey, Jacqueline said, "When I was going through pharmacy school, I had great pharmacy mentors at Great River. They were amazing and I learned so much, they inspired me to keep going forward with pharmacy."



Our pharmacies and service offerings have continued to expand to meet the needs of our patients. Heritage Pharmacy, Fort Madison offers drive-thru, pick-up, and delivery options. Heritage Pharmacy, Mount Pleasant offers convenient pick-up after appointments, curbside pick-up, medication delivery in Mount Pleasant and surrounding areas, and free packaging of medication in reusable, calendar, color-coded, containers. Each of our pharmacies also offer Meds-to-Beds a free delivery of discharge prescriptions to your room before you leave the hospital.

# Bariatric Surgery

coming soon



Great River Health is set to introduce a new addition to our array of health services: bariatric surgery. This initiative is led by the expertise of Jayaraj Salimath, DO, FACOS, FASMBS. Dr. Salimath, a board-certified General Surgeon specializing in Bariatric Surgery has been practicing for 17 years.

“It’s exciting to offer a new, life-changing service,” Dr. Salimath shared. “By adding bariatric surgery to the weight loss resources at Great River Health, we’re giving people more options to take control of their health and make the choices right for them.”

Bariatric surgery encompasses a range of procedures designed to aid in weight loss for individuals struggling with obesity. The types of surgery offered by Great River Health will include Gastric Lap Band, Sleeve Gastrectomy, Duodenal Switch, Gastric Bypass, and SADI. Each procedure is tailored to the unique needs and health circumstances of the patient.

Ideal candidates for bariatric surgery are those who have unsuccessfully attempted medical therapy or non-surgical weight loss methods. Additionally, individuals with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 and

above, or those with a BMI of 35 and above who also suffer from serious associated diseases, are prime candidates for this surgery.

The benefits of bariatric surgery are many. Beyond the obvious advantage of significant weight loss, recipients often experience improvements in various health metrics, such as blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar regulation. Bariatric surgery has been shown to alleviate or even resolve comorbid conditions like type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, and joint pain, enhancing the overall quality of life and reducing the risk of future health complications for recipients.

The addition of bariatric surgery is aligned with Great River Health’s commitment to providing comprehensive medical care to the residents of Southeast Iowa. By expanding our offerings to include this critical intervention, we hope to empower individuals in their journey toward improved health and well-being.

For updates on this new service, follow Great River Health on social media or visit our website: [greatriverhealth.org](http://greatriverhealth.org)



# Providers for you

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The following is a list of Great River Health providers by specialty.

## **Allergy & Immunology:**

Jennifer Berge, MD  
Douglas Henrich, MD

## **Anesthesia:**

Vivian Anderson, CRNA  
Jose Calderon, MD  
Kaleb Frazier, CRNA  
Mark Grieves, DNAP  
Stephanie Hastings, CRNA  
Elvis Kasi, DNAP  
Corey LaLonde, CRNA  
Melissa Mahon, DNAP  
Mark Walz, CRNA  
Susan Walz, CRNA

## **Audiology:**

Jennifer Berge, MD  
Douglas Henrich, MD

## **Cardiology:**

Muhammad Ajmal, MD  
Whitney Hall, ARNP  
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