



The new Madison Hospital opened in 2012.

A WEALTH OF CHOICES KEEPS RESIDENTS HEALTHY

State-of-the-art care

BY KIMBERLY BALLARD

With health care costs rising in major metro areas across the country, Huntsville ranks well below the national average, with the fourth lowest costs out of the top ten comparable technology communities, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER).

The low healthcare cost has nothing to do with quality or quantity of services available. In fact, both of Huntsville's regional medical centers significantly expanded in the last year to incorporate new facilities in the City of Madison, while Huntsville's cancer treatment and research center has broken through many barriers in disease detection.

Whether you bring with you to Huntsville aging parents, children with disabilities, personal ailments that require the most

cutting-edge treatments, or you are seeking aesthetic dental and personal care services, you will find plenty of reassurance in Huntsville – a city on the fast track to the future in health care services.

Regional Medical Centers

Huntsville Hospital is one of the fastest growing hospital systems in the Southeast.

“The development of Huntsville Hospital Health System over the past five years is evidence that healthcare providers in the

Tennessee Valley are taking the lead in improving the quality of care to benefit their patients and communities,” said David Spillers, chief executive officer of Huntsville Hospital Health System.

“Huntsville Hospital Health System is the result of a fast-changing economic environment that is driving collaboration among like-minded hospitals and other providers in the region. Although we have experienced a great deal of change, we have not changed our commitment to provide the community with one of the best health care systems in America – best in quality and in patient safety.”

Today, the not-for-profit Huntsville Hospital System includes the Huntsville Women & Children’s facility; Athens Limestone Hospital; the new Madison Hospital that opened in early 2012; Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield; Decatur Morgan Hospital and Parkway Medical Center both located in Decatur; Lawrence Medical Center in Moulton; and the Hartselle Medical Center acquired in 2012.

Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children has delivered more babies than any other facility in the state, and Huntsville Hospital serves as the region’s trauma center.

The new 60-bed Madison Hospital was built with future expansion to 200 beds in mind. The airy, contemporary facility includes a 24/7 emergency department, an intensive care unit, maternity services, general medicine inpatient care, surgical services, imaging and laboratory services, physical therapy, and non-invasive cardiology services.

Mary Lynne Wright, president of Madison Hospital, said the facility is poised to grow alongside the community and add services as the need arises.

“We are excited to fulfill our commitment to provide important services close to home,” Wright said. “Since opening on Feb. 28, 2012, we experienced many ‘firsts’ – first inpatient admission, first surgery, first newborn delivery – and the list goes on. We also opened Madison Hospital Breast Center, the city’s first breast imaging center for screening mammography, and we brought a general surgeon to the community who now lives in Madison.”



Local icon Liz Hurley celebrates the start of the 9th Annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run 5K. In 2012, the run drew more than 6,000 runners and raised over \$268,000 for the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Photo by Bob Gathany



The Huntsville Hospital Center for Women & Children has delivered more babies than any other facility in the state.



Crestwood Medical Center recently opened a new diagnostic facility in Madison.

Photo by Bob Gathany

his 100th case. Urologist Dr. Keith Jimenez was the first in North Alabama to use the da Vinci Si “Firefly” technology to perform kidney surgery.

CMC is growing as well, having opened a new Crestwood Diagnostic Center on Hughes Road in Madison. The new outpatient center offers various imaging services, digital mammography,

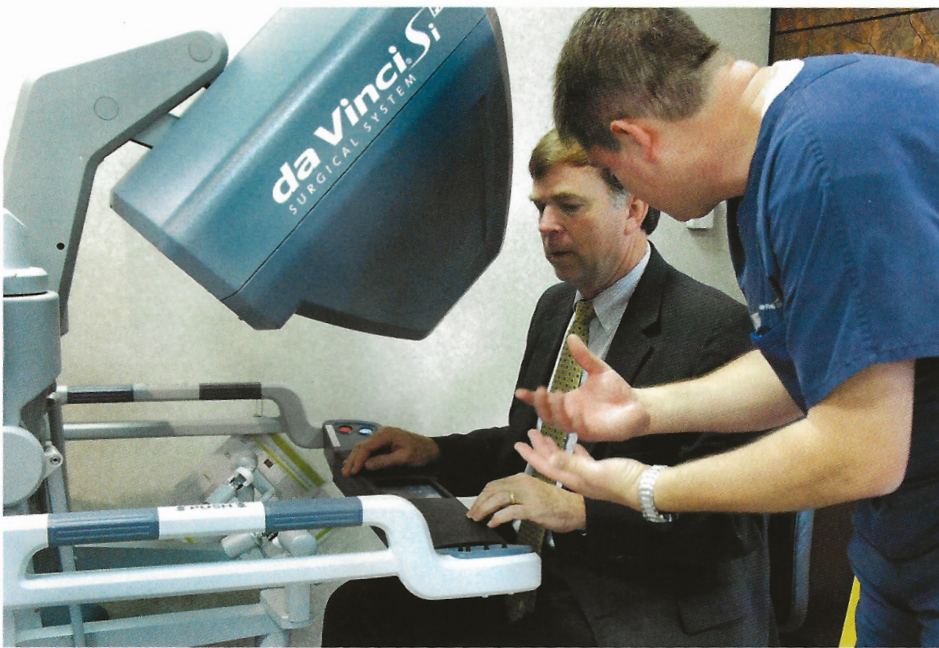
laboratory services and an adult and pediatric sleep disorder clinic.

Cancer treatment & research

After more than 25 years of cancer research, Clearview Cancer Institute is responsible for 30+ scientific breakthroughs of new FDA-approved cancer fighting treatments for breast cancer, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, lymphoma, colon and pancreatic cancer, and lung cancer.

In addition to the Phase I, II and III clinical trials performed at CCI, the institute has made unprecedented breakthroughs in lung cancer treatments. As little as six years ago, there were no pre-screening capabilities for detecting lung cancer. A diagnosis came long after symptoms such as chronic coughing had begun.

“There has always been a stigma on smokers who develop lung cancer, which said, ‘You did it to yourself,’” said CCI’s Dr. Marshall T. Schreeder. “Perhaps that is true, but tobacco is highly addictive and therefore it is very difficult to quit. Through CCI’s Russel Hill Foundation and a grant from Huntsville’s HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, we have a mission and obligation to the community to investigate early prevention measures and treatments for lung cancer, right here at home.”



Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle gets a look at the da Vinci Robotic Assisted Surgery system at Crestwood Medical Center.

Across town, Crestwood Medical Center is known for having an advanced surgical system. Crestwood Robotic Services opened with the vaunted da Vinci Robotic Assisted Surgery in 2011. The robotic surgery device performs less invasive surgical procedures, resulting in less bleeding and less scarring. This translates into shorter recovery times so patients can go home sooner.

The da Vinci had so much success, CMC upgraded its capabilities in 2012 with the newer da Vinci Si, a single-incision device

useful in many gynecological procedures, prostate, kidney and urologic surgeries. It has been especially successful in laparoscopic gallbladder surgery; the traditional procedure took four incisions, but now only takes one with the da Vinci Si. CMC is the only hospital in North Alabama offering single incision robotic capabilities.

CMC’s general surgeon Dr. Dennis Fernandez was the first surgeon in North Alabama to perform a single site gallbladder surgery using the Si. He is now approaching

Schreeder said that in a recent study taken over a seven-year span of 50,000 smokers who have smoked a pack a day for 25 years or more, routine low dose CT scans with routine chest x-rays brought the mortality rate in that high risk group down by about 20 percent.

“We have not found a cure for lung cancer, but along with smoking cessation programs, regular screenings, and treatments that do not ruin quality of life, we can now give lung cancer patients months and even years of life, when just a few years ago that was not possible.”

CCI treats more than 350 patients a day and has a staff of 14 physicians located in a 115,000-square-foot facility.

Family wellness

From family walk-in clinics and urgent care centers, to specialists and alternative medicine options, new Huntsville residents can be assured that if they suffer from any form of chronic pain or back problems or old sports injuries, or require rehabilitation services or physical therapy, Huntsville has no shortage of quality family health-care services.

“We treat our patient’s mind, body, and spirit,” said Dr. Christopher Hoover of Healthsource Chiropractic and Progressive Rehab of Madison. “We offer progressive rehabilitation combined with periodic adjustments to treat the various needs of each patient, and we provide long term care plans specific to correcting each individual’s symptoms.”

Huntsville also offers the most innovative techniques in family and cosmetic dentistry.

“Every step of our patient care involves the latest advancements in technology to enhance the patients overall oral health,” said Dr. Sonya Wintzell of the Dental Professionals on Whitesburg. “Digital radiographs, immunofluorescence cavity detection, and salivary diagnostic tools help us diagnose dental disease. Computer generated restorations, digital bite scans, and laser treatments help us ensure that the care we deliver is of the highest quality, and meets the patients concerns for restorations that are as beautiful as they are functional.” ■

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