

Newsletter

ISSUE | 11 | NOVEMBER 2025



Calendar of Events

Awareness Month

New Employees

Quality Corner

Community Outreach

Gove County Medical Center

Welcome to the Pulse Newsletter. Here you will find the latest news from the hospital including opportunities and trends.

Gove County Medical Center's dedication to individual attention and superb care drive every interaction we have with our patients, our neighbors, and our fellow caregivers.

We are here to make a difference.



Health News

The latest in news for healthcare



Employment Opportunities

Make sure to see all the great job opportunities

The Pulse

Mission, Vision, Values

VISION

It starts with approach.

Our vision is to act with unity in serving one common purpose: To make a difference. We show we care with every action in each interaction.

VALUE STATEMENT

The values guiding Gove County Medical Center's mission and vision express our commitment to all those who live in the communities we serve.

Dedication to individual attention and superb care drive every interaction we have with our patients, our neighbors, and our fellow caregivers.

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MISSION

Enhancing lives through person-centered care. Providing the right care, at the right time, in the right setting - close to home.

VALUES

- + Collaboration
- + Unity
- + Respect
- + Community
- + Excellence

Committed to Others. Always.

SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- + Providing a person-centered experience
- + Care you can trust
- + Be the difference in our communities
- + Be a great place to work
- + Today's success for tomorrow's future
- + Invest in our leaders

The Pulse

Events



**Gove County
Medical Center**
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November

Calendar of Events

4th	<i>Operations Team Mtg. 1pm</i>
6th	<i>Coffee & Convo. 8:30am</i>
11th	<i>DM Mtg. 1pm</i>
	<i>Charge Nurse Mtg. 3pm</i>
	<i>Nursing Staff Mtg. 4pm</i>
12th	<i>Orientation 8am</i>
	<i>Body Mechanics 11am</i>
	<i>Active Threat 12:15pm</i>
13th	<i>Policy Mtg. 10am</i>
	<i>Marketing Com. Mtg. 12pm</i>
18th	<i>CPR 8am</i>
	<i>Operations Team Mtg. 1pm</i>
20th	<i>Med Staff Mtg. 7:30am</i>
	<i>CPR 8am</i>
21st	<i>BOT Mtg. 8am</i>
25th	<i>QAPI Day 8am</i>
27th	<i>Thanksgiving</i>

The Pulse

Our Providers



Michael E. Machen, MD



Douglas J. Gruenbacher, MD



Shelly L. Gruenbacher, MD



Anna Rempel, MD



Scott Rempel, MD



Jamie Mense, APRN



**Cardiology
Dr. Wagle**



**Podiatry
Dr. Hinze**



**Cardiology
Dr. Hagley**



**General Surgery
Dr. Schultz**



**General Surgery
Dr. Gabel**



**Diabetic/Dietitian/Nutrition
Janette Burbach, MS RD CDE**



**Pain Management
Brad Wertz, CRNA**



**Pain Management
Regina Taylor, PA-C**



November 2025

Specialty Clinics & Services



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MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

3 Dr. Gabel	4 MRI Mammograms	5 HPM Brad Wertz Diabetic Clinic	6 Dr. Schultz	7
10	11 MRI	12 HPM Regina Taylor	13 Dr. Hinze	14
17 NucMed/Cardiolite Dr. Gabel	18 MRI Dr. Wagle	19 HPM Brad Wertz	20	21
24 HPM Regina Taylor	25	26	27	28



Janette Burbach
MS, RD, CED



Regina Taylor
PA-C



Brad Wertz
CRNA



Kelly Gabel
D.O.



Charles Schultz
M.D.



Robert C. Hinze
D.P.M.



Kalyan Wagle
M.D.



Michael Hagley
M.D.

Dietitian

Janette Burbach

Holistic Pain Management (HPM)

Regina Taylor

Brad Wertz

Surgery

Kelly Gabel

Charles Schultz

Podiatry

Robert C. Hinze

Cardiology

Kalyan Wagle

Michael Hagley

Breakthrough in Xenotransplantation: Pig Liver Supports Human Life for 38 Days

A A groundbreaking medical first has been reported out of China: a genetically modified pig liver was successfully transplanted into a living 71-year-old patient, providing crucial support for 38 days. The patient ultimately lived 171 days after the procedure, marking a significant milestone in the quest to solve the critical shortage of human organs.

The recipient was a 71-year-old man suffering from cirrhosis and a large, aggressive liver tumor. With no compatible human donor and too little native liver remaining to sustain him after tumor removal, the team at the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University opted for a highly experimental approach.

The pig liver used was from a clone with 10 gene edits, specifically designed to minimize the risk of rejection and infection. The transplant was intended to serve as a "bridge"—a temporary measure to keep the patient alive while his remaining native liver had a chance to regenerate, or while waiting for a human donor.

The results, published in the *Journal of Hepatology*, provided immediate optimism:

- **Immediate Function:** Right after the transplant, the pig liver began to function, turning red and producing bile.
- **Improved Health:** Liver function indicators in the patient improved significantly within the first day, with no signs of acute rejection in the first 10 days.
- **Feasibility Confirmed:** The study confirms the clinical feasibility of using a pig liver to provide effective, temporary support for a patient in liver failure.

While the initial success was remarkable, the organ eventually failed due to xenotransplantation



-associated thrombotic microangiopathy, a condition involving microscopic blood clots. The pig liver was removed on Day 38. Critically, the patient's own liver was functioning well enough at that point to keep him going.

Though the patient died 171 days later from unrelated gastrointestinal bleeding, experts call the 38 days of function a "groundbreaking" achievement. It proves that the complex pig liver can function in a human body and offers "completely new opportunities" for bridging patients through acute liver failure—a vital step toward solving the organ donor crisis.

Why this matters: Livers are the second most-needed organ after kidneys. This research offers a pathway to potentially providing life-saving support for the thousands of patients waiting for a human donor.



Source www.cnn.com

NOVEMBER 3, 6-8PM

EMPOWERING WOMEN Through Wellness

Gove County Medical Center
Physical Therapy Gym
West entrance on Castle Rock Street

CHARCUTERIE BOARDS

Enjoy an evening out! There will be meaningful activities and discussions with the GCMC therapy department, Dr. Shelly, Dr. Anna and Jamie Mense, APRN.



Women's Health—Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy

Pelvic floor physical therapy is a non-surgical approach to rehabilitation of dysfunctions in the pelvis that contribute to bowel, bladder, sexual health, and pain complaints. Approaches may include behavioral strategies, manual therapies, modalities, therapeutic exercise, education, and functional re-training.

What is the 'pelvic floor?'

The pelvic floor is a group of muscles, ligaments, and connective tissues that form a supportive, hammock-like structure at the bottom of the pelvis. It stretches from the pubic bone in the front to the tailbone in the back, and from side to side across the sitting bones. In addition to muscles, the pelvic floor contains nerves and fascia (connective tissue), all of which play a role in pelvic health.

There are five major functions of the pelvic floor muscles:

- **Supports internal organs:** The pelvic floor muscles provide a strong and stable base for the abdominal organs (bladder, intestines, etc.) and the reproductive organs in women and men.
- **Controls bladder and bowel movements:** The pelvic floor muscles have a sphincteric function. They must contract to prevent leakage and relax to allow for urination and bowel movements.
- **Stabilizes the core:** These muscles work with your deep abdominal and back muscles to stabilize your spine and pelvis. They help your body handle pressure from activities like lifting, coughing, and sneezing.
- **Contributes to sexual function**

- **Aids in circulation:** The pelvic floor muscles help pump blood and lymphatic fluid, which reduces inflammation in the pelvis.

What happens when the pelvic floor is unhealthy?

Pelvic floor muscles can become too weak, too tight, or uncoordinated, leading to pelvic floor dysfunction. This can be caused by various factors, including:

- **Childbirth:** The trauma and stretching can weaken the muscles.
- **Aging:** Muscles naturally lose strength over time.
- **Straining:** Repeated heavy lifting, chronic constipation, or a persistent cough can weaken the muscles.
- **Surgery:** Procedures like a hysterectomy or prostatectomy can impact pelvic floor function.

What conditions can be treated with pelvic floor physical therapy?

Urinary incontinence including stress and urge incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, chronic pelvic pain, chronic constipation, pregnancy (prenatal and postpartum rehab), pudendal neuralgia, painful bladder syndrome, pain with intercourse, overactive bladder/frequent urination, and many more!

A physical therapist can provide biofeedback (cueing) and a personalized treatment to work on improving pelvic floor health and function.

For more information, contact the GCMC Physical Therapy Department 785-754-5167.

By Nicole Walt, DPT

The Pulse

Coffee and Conversation



Announcing: Monthly Staff Event: Coffee and Conversation with Conner ☕👤

We are excited to share a new opportunity just for our staff!

These events will happen **every 1st Thursday of Every Month**, from **8:30 AM to 9:00 AM** in the **Conference Room**, where Conner will be hosting an informal **“Coffee and Conversation”** session. This is a relaxed time for any staff members who’d like to drop in, ask questions, or simply chat about GCMC and what’s going on around here.



Coffee and CONVERSATION

With Conner Fiscarelli, CEO

1st Thursday Every Month - 8:30am-9:00am

Nov. 6th



Dec. 4th

**GCMC Conference Room
EMPLOYEES ONLY**

Oh—and **did we mention there will be free donuts?** 🍩

This event is **for staff only** (not open to the public), and it’s all about giving you the chance to connect directly with Conner in a casual setting—something our busy schedules don’t always allow.

Coffee and Conversation will be only be promoted internally.

We look forward to seeing you there—**coffee and donuts are on us!**





EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACUTE CARE

RN - FT Nights /PRN Days/Nights

Charge Nurse – FT Nights

Patient Care Technician – FT or PRN

LAB

Medical Lab Technician– PRN

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Respiratory Therapist - FT or PT

OPERATING ROOM

Operating Room Nurse Circulator - FT or PT

OR RN - PRN

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Specialist - FT

HEALTH INFORMATION

Medical Coder - FT



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November Birthdays

Joyce Rohr	11-1
Cassie Wertz	11-1
Alex Hargitt	11-5
Star Hooper	11-9
Kelsey Billinger	11-11
Amanda Coble	11-16
Justin Atwell	11-17
Arle Gumban	11-18
Christie Salyers	11-22
Ruth Blackwill	11-25
Genoa Lemaster	11-27
Allison Cobin	11-29

November Anniversaries

7 YEARS

Ellie Anderson

4 YEARS

Jadelyn Betz

3 YEARS

Lauree Johnson

Emma Jones

2 YEARS

Austin Cook

Renee Meiar

The Pulse New Employees



Please Welcome Your New Co-Worker!



WELCOME TO
**THE
TEAM**

Vincent Stephenson

EVS Technician

Please join us in welcoming Vincent Stephenson to our team at GCMC! Vincent previously worked at HaysMed as an EVS Tech. He moved back to Quinter with his wife and two children because he was raised in Quinter and likes the small town lifestyle. Vincent applied at GCMC because he enjoys working in EVS; also, his grandmother used to work at GCMC and told him it's a good place to work. Welcome to GCMC, Vincent!

Welcome!



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WELCOME TO
**THE
TEAM**

Lilianne (Lily) Tate

Occupational Therapist

We are thrilled to officially welcome Lily Tate to the GCMC team as our newest full-time OT! Lily previously worked with us as a contract therapist from Michigan, and she loved our community so much she decided to put down roots! Lily recently bought a home in Ellis with her fiancé. When asked why she chose to join us full-time, she praised our Therapy Department's support for creativity and great communication. We are certain Lily's expertise and enthusiasm will be a valuable addition to our GCMC family!

Quality Corner: Living Our Mission Through Quality Enhancing Lives Through Person-Centered Care

At Gove County Medical Center, quality isn't just a program — it's how we live our Mission each day. Our Vision calls us to act with unity toward one common purpose: *to make a difference*. The September QAPI meeting highlighted how every department is putting that vision into action, improving care, supporting staff, and strengthening our hospital community.

Physical Therapy is improving comfort and air quality through the upcoming replacement of the therapy pool dehumidifier. **Occupational Therapy** celebrated a staffing success by transitioning a contract OT into a permanent role, ensuring consistent therapy coverage. **Speech Therapy** enhanced scheduling accuracy in Redoc to boost communication. **Cardiac Rehab** is improving timely chart completion for long-term patients, and **Lactation** standardized documentation between inpatient and outpatient consults to improve communication and follow-up.

Quality continues to drive engagement through consistent QAPI Storyboards. **Risk Management** is working on strengthened incident review consistency and reviewer training. **Compliance** advanced TRULU element completion, reinforcing a stronger organizational framework. **Infection Prevention** achieved 96% hand hygiene compliance, 100% isolation compliance, and zero HAIs — a testament to staff education and dedication.

I.T. is upgrading the firewall, expanding server capacity, and improving storage to ensure data security and reliability. **Maintenance** completed major facility upgrades including oxygen tank installation, sidewalk repairs, HVAC updates, and therapy gym modifications.

R.T. continues weekly airway cart audits to ensure emergency readiness, while **Pulmonary Rehab** is hoping to increase referrals through provider outreach and patient education.

HIM continues to improve documentation timeliness for accurate and accessible medical records.

Each of these projects reflects our Values — **Collaboration, Unity, Respect, Community, and Excellence** — and supports our strategic priorities of delivering person-centered care, building trust, investing in our teams, and making a difference in the communities we serve. Together, we're not just meeting goals — we're *living our Mission*.



*You Can't
Fake Quality*



The Pulse

Board of Trustees

Quote of the Month

"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."

Lewis Carroll

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VALUES

Collaboration

Unity

Respect

Community

Excellence



Terry Ostmeyer
Chairperson



Dave Polifka
Vice-Chairperson



Greg Beougher
Treasurer



Deana Zerr
Secretary



Larry Manhart
Member

GCMC's Board of Trustees is a leadership team that is comprised of a diverse group of individuals passionate about providing access to healthcare regardless of the challenges that come with rural hospitals.