UPMC



UPMC | POLICY MATTERS

This edition of *Policy Matters* highlights the many ways UPMC is advancing health and well-being across the communities we serve. Highlights include ongoing efforts to enhance workplace safety, recognition of organizational excellence, the growth of Freedom House 2.0, and partnerships that support children, families, and first responders.

Together, these stories demonstrate UPMC's commitment to supporting our communities, expanding opportunity, and improving access to high-quality care throughout our region.

System Spotlight



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Pennsylvania Chamber Foundation Recognizes UPMC as a 2026 'Greatest Place to Intern in PA'

This recognition reflects what makes the UPMC internship experience so special: meaningful work, supportive mentors, and opportunities to learn, grow, and make an impact from day one. From HR and finance to technology, communications, and beyond, UPMC interns play a vital role in supporting and strengthen the care and services that support our communities.

Learn more

Health Policy In Focus

UPMC Leaders Elected to Pennsylvania's RHTP Advisory Council

The Pennsylvania Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) Advisory Council is working closely with stakeholders, community leaders, and advocates to ensure these programs and services meet the evolving needs of Pennsylvanians.

- Heather Hallman, vice president, UPMC Community HealthChoices, was selected for Aging and Access.
- John Lawd, senior architect, UPMC Insurance Services Division, was selected for Technology and Infrastructure: Interoperability.
- Rebecca Taylor, vice president, Pharmacy Services, UPMC, was selected for Workforce Barriers.

Continued Focus on Workplace Safety Across UPMC

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How UPMC's People and Teams Are Enhancing Safety for All

Workplace safety is foundational to delivering exceptional care, and UPMC is taking a comprehensive approach to protecting both patients and caregivers. This work is rooted in partnership, with staff and teams leading that effort, from frontline caregivers and security professionals to operational and clinical leaders.

Through new safety initiatives, ongoing collaboration, and a shared commitment to creating a secure environment, these individuals are helping to ensure that UPMC remains a safe place to receive care, work, and heal.

Learn more

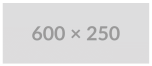
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UPMC Hamot Pilots New Visitor Check-in Safety Measures

UPMC Hamot has launched a new visitor check-in and security screening process designed to enhance safety for patients, visitors, and staff. As the first UPMC facility to implement the new process, the initiative is designed to improve safety by providing a more accurate and real-time record of visitor activity.

Learn more

Advocacy In Action



UPMC Expands Community Preparedness Through Trauma Kit Donations

UPMC is strengthening emergency preparedness and supporting first responders with the donation of 100 trauma kits and equipment to the City of Pittsburgh. The contribution includes 90 trauma-equipped first aid kits for frontline patrol vehicles, 10 individual kits for SWAT officers and tactical paramedics, and four disaster and mass casualty response bags stocked with advanced medical supplies for airway management, warming, and blood administration supplies.



PODCASTS.APPLE.COM

Building Stronger Health Care Workforce Pathways

What does it take to build a sustainable health care workforce for the future? In this episode of Becker's Payer Issues, Dr. Jeffrey Romoff, executive vice president, Community Engagement, UPMC Health Plan, and Brandy Hershberger, DNP, chief nursing officer and vice president, Workforce Solutions, UPMC, discuss how partnerships, registered apprenticeships, and community-based programs are creating new pathways into health care careers across Pennsylvania.

They also discuss initiatives like Pathways to Work, which has helped more than 3,000 UPMC Health Plan members secure employment opportunities across the UPMC health system.

Listen now



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New Research Offers a Roadmap for the Next Phase of AI in Health Care

Artificial intelligence is already being used across health care, but most tools are still in the early stages of adoption. A new report from the Connected Medicine and HLMI Research provides a practical look at what health systems still need to build to support AI successfully. The report focuses on governance, testing environments, and performance measurement.

The findings help move the conversation from AI's potential to the infrastructure and processes required to ensure these technologies deliver meaningful value.

Learn more

Supporting Our Communities, Every Day



UPMC's Freedom House 2.0 Marks 5-Year Milestone, Innovates with AI Training

UPMC's Freedom House 2.0 program is building on the legacy of Pittsburgh's pioneering Freedom House Ambulance Service by creating new pathways to health care careers while helping address the region's EMS workforce challenges. The program's use of AI tools like an Alpowered EMT simulator are helping participants gain hands-on experience and confidence, preparing the next generation of health care professionals to serve our communities.



UPMC and UPMC Health Plan Partner with Tickets for Kids' Charities for Dream Big Carnival

The inaugural event at PPG Paints Arena brought children and families together for a day of games, entertainment, and visits from UPMC Health Plan mascots Wit and Calo, creating lasting memories and celebrating the power of community.



UPMC Magee-Womens in Erie Welcomes Community for Women's Health 'Sip and See'

The Sip and See event brought together representatives from prenatal education, lactation support, Magee Womens Research Institute, doula services, UPMC Magee Womens Specialty Services, and UPMC Magee Womens Associates, giving participants an opportunity to learn more about women's health services, meet providers, and tour the facility.

UPMC Northwest Hosts Cancer Survivor Picnic

More than 300 cancer survivors and their families gathered at UPMC Northwest's Survivor Picnic, a celebration of resilience, gratitude, and community.

Sponsored by the Northwest Hospital Foundation, the event brought together survivors, loved ones, caregivers, and care teams while highlighting the power of community support. Attendees also had the opportunity to ring the bell to mark the end of their domestic/u body radiation therapy to UPMC Northwest.

UPMC Harrisburg Hosts 'Girls on the Run' Midstate Summer Camp

The camp equips young people with important life skills such as confidence, resilience, and healthy habits through the Girls on the Run International, which has empowered more than 2 million girls since 1996.

Attendees spent time in our resident skills lab, where they practiced surgical skills through interactive learning stations. They then showed off their creativity by making colorful coasters.

UPMC Magee-Womens in Central Pa. Supports Postpartum Families Through Breastfeeding Awareness

UPMC Magee-Womens in Central Pa. brought mothers and families together during a breastfeeding support group held Aug. 5 in Camp Hill. The free weekly program, led by UPMC lactation consultants, provides education, expert guidance, and peer support for new and expectant parents as they navigate the early postpartum period's challenges while building connections within the community.

Two UPMC Critical Access Hospitals Recognized with 5-Star Ratings

UPMC Muncy and UPMC Wellsboro have been named among the nation's top performers in rural health care, each receiving 5-star ratings for cleanliness from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) patient survey.

These top cleanliness scores are part of ongoing federal hospital quality reporting and reflect how patients rate the overall condition and upkeep of patient rooms and hospital facilities.

Adaptive Golf Clinic Empowers Kids of All Abilities in Lycoming County

UPMC Pediatric Rehabilitation's adaptive golf clinic at Williamsport Country Club is helping children with disabilities build new skills, confidence, and independence through personalized instruction and hands-on golf experiences in a supportive environment.

UPMC Altoona Hosts Milk Donation Drive to Help Nourish Babies in Need

In partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank, UPMC Altoona hosted a Breast Milk Donation Drive to support the milk bank's bridge program, providing donor milk to hospitals in need when needed.

The effort supports the milk bank's bridge program, which provides pasteurized donor human milk to newborns at UPMC Altoona, helping ensure vulnerable infants have access to optimal nutrition when needed.



UPMC Western Maryland Earns National Recognition for Excellence in Stroke Care

The American Heart Association honored the hospital with its Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award and Target: Stroke Honor Roll for excellence in evidence-based stroke care.

Stay Informed

UPMC's Government Affairs Team is committed to delivering timely and relevant updates on the latest health care trends, medical research, and clinical developments as they relate to public health issues.

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