UPMC Life Changing Medicine



UPMC | POLICY MATTERS

In this edition of *Policy Matters*, we highlight UPMC's continued commitment to investing in our workforce, strengthening our communities, and expanding access to high-quality care across the regions we serve.

From enhancing paid parental leave benefits and workplace safety efforts to launching new facilities and forging strategic partnerships, these updates reflect our care delivery. These stories reflect our commitment to improving health and well-being throughout our footprint.

We also spotlight recent achievements and collaborations that are helping shape a stronger future for our employees, patients, and communities.

System Spotlight

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UPMC Expands Paid Parental Leave Benefit

Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, UPMC will expand its paid parental leave benefit from two weeks to four weeks for all eligible employees across the system. This enhancement reflects UPMC's ongoing commitment to supporting employees and their families through competitive benefits that evolve with workforce needs.

Combined with other available benefits, including short-term disability and paid time off, eligible employees may receive more than 14 weeks of leave.

Learn more

Advocacy in Action



INSIDE.UPMC.COM

On the Road to a Safer UPMC

Maribeth McLaughlin, chief nurse executive and vice president, Patient Care Services; Mike Rockwell, vice president, Enterprise Safety and Security; and Kim Baker, clinical program manager, Workplace Safety, have been traveling across UPMC's regions to engage directly with staff about workplace safety.

The visits have reinforced that each hospital and region faces unique challenges, and that effective safety solutions must be tailored rather than one-size-fits-all solutions. Feedback gathered during the rounds is shared with UPMC's Workplace Safety Committee to help inform new initiatives, training, and support resources across the system.

Learn more

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New Allegheny Recovery Partnership Plan Aims to Overhaul Addiction Treatment

UPMC is one of the three organizations partnering with Allegheny County to improve substance use disorder care through the new Allegheny Recovery Partnership Plan.

As part of the initiative, UPMC will help enhance residential treatment services and strengthen connections to outpatient care, supporting long-term recovery and reducing gaps in care for individuals with substance use disorder.

Learn more



UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Ranked Among Top 10 Children's Hospitals in the Nation

As part of its 2025-2027 "Best Children's Hospitals" listing, U.S. News & World Report ranked UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh as one of the top 10 children's hospitals in the nation.

In addition to reclaiming a spot on the Best Children's Hospitals Honor Roll, UPMC Children's was recognized as the No. 1 (tied) children's hospital in Pennsylvania. It was also nationally ranked in all 11 pediatric specialties.



Construction Begins on New UPMC Specialty Care Destination, Expanding Access to Advanced Health Services for UPMC Patients in Butler County

Construction is underway on a new UPMC Specialty Care destination at Clearview Mall in Butler County, expanding access to advanced care closer to home.

Expected to open in early 2027, the facility will offer specialty physician services, enhanced diagnostic imaging, and expanded surgical capabilities as part of UPMC's continued investment in the region.

UPMC Supports Annual Pittsburgh Recovery Walk

UPMC, UPMC Health Plan, and UPMC Community Care Behavioral Health Organization were proud supporters of the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk on Sept. 12. They joined community partners to celebrate recovery and raise awareness of substance use disorder.

The event brought together individuals, families, and organizations committed to reducing stigma, increasing access to care, and supporting long-term recovery across the region.



UPMC Celebrates Regional Community Champions in Northwestern Pennsylvania

On Sept. 16, UPMC hosted its Community Partnership Champions Celebration, recognizing the organizations and community leaders that help drive economic opportunity, and well-being across the northwestern Pennsylvania region.

The event celebrates the power of collaboration, honoring trusted partnerships, shared leadership, and the collective impact created when UPMC and community organizations work together to strengthen local communities.

Honorees included:

- Child Development Centers.
- Creative Community Connectors, Inc.
- Early Connections, Inc. Erie Rise Credo.
- Erie Center for Arts and Technology.
- Erie County Community College.
- Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania.
- Primary Health Network (Wayne Primary Care).
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania.
- ServErie.
- Voices for Independence.

UPMC Lights Erie Purple for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor is helping raise awareness of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month by partnering with the Suicide Prevention Advisory Board of Erie County to light Erie landmarks in purple throughout September.

The initiative — which includes the Bicentennial Tower and Perry Square fountain — promotes awareness, reduces stigma around mental health, and encourages community members to seek support through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

New Automation System Enhances Lab Services at UPMC Chautauqua

UPMC Chautauqua recently unveiled a new laboratory automation system designed to improve turnaround, efficiency, and accuracy of testing for blood, urine, and other specimens.

The advanced technology will help streamline laboratory operations, support faster results for patients and providers, and enhance care for communities across western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania.



UPMC Northwest Introduces Advanced Robotic Surgical Technology

UPMC Northwest has expanded access to advanced surgical care with the introduction of a new da Vinci Xi robotic surgical system. The technology brings state-of-the-art, minimally invasive procedures closer to home for patients in Venango County and the surrounding region.

UPMC Harrisburg Earns the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization Gold Center of Excellence Designation

The award recognizes hospitals and medical centers around the world that demonstrate exceptional commitment to evidence-based processes and quality measures, staff training and continuing education, patient satisfaction, and clinical excellence in the use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

UPMC Carlisle Wheelchair Wash Helps Keep Mobility Equipment Safe and Working

UPMC Carlisle is hosting its free annual Wheelchair Wash and Repair event on Sept. 17. The event will provide participants with wheelchair and scooter cleaning, repairs, and maintenance support while raising awareness about the importance of regular wheelchair care.

UPMC Enhances EMS and Neurosurgical Care in Williamsport

UPMC in north central Pa. recently expanded access to specialized care in the Williamsport region with two additions.

- Michael J. Nuttall, DO, is the new medical director of EMS for UPMC Williamsport and Susquehanna Regional EMS.
- Haylie Jackson, MD, joined the UPMC Neurological Institute at Williamsport as a neurosurgeon.

Together, these additions strengthen emergency medical services leadership and enhance access to advanced brain and spine care close to home for patients across north central Pennsylvania.

UPMC Supports Workforce Development at PA CareerLink Day in Lycoming County

UPMC participated in PA CareerLink Day in Lycoming County, connecting with job seekers and community members as part of a broader workforce development collaboration. Hosted at the PA CareerLink in the Mall at Loyalsock, new Williamsport location, the event highlighted resources, career opportunities, and local employer partnerships that help strengthen the workforce across north central Pennsylvania.



UPMC Helps Launch New First Aid Station at Jaffa Shrine in Erie County

UPMC Altoona and the UPMC Foundation partnered with the Jaffa Shrine to establish a new fire aid station that will provide on-site care for minor illnesses and injuries during community events. Equipped with essential medical supplies and staffed by trained volunteers, the station is dedicated to supporting the health and safety of the communities it serves beyond the walls of its hospitals.



UPMC Western Maryland Recognized for Enhancing Beauty of Cumberland

UPMC Western Maryland was recently honored with a Let's Beautify Cumberland Community Award. The award recognizes the effort that goes into keeping our hospital looking its best.

The Let's Beautify Cumberland program is a community-driven effort focused on making Cumberland a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live, work, and visit.



UPMC Western Maryland Supports YMCA of Cumberland's Dragons on the Lake Festival

UPMC Western Maryland was proud to support the YMCA of Cumberland's Dragons on the Lake Festival and host a team in the annual dragon boat races, pairing community members in a fun, inclusive event that promotes teamwork, friendly competition, and community spirit while supporting the YMCA's greater mission.

Stay Informed

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

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