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Memorial Health Care Systems
300 N. Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434



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Memorial Health Care Systems

Winter 2020

Special Delivery: A Role Reversal

Dr. Jacqueline Hobbs and her husband Rich welcome baby Everly

Dr. Jacqueline Hobbs has worked with hundreds of moms. She has journeyed with her patients through prenatal visits, labor, delivery and through primary and emergency care. Recently her role changed from medical provider to patient. She found herself in the role of becoming a new mother, going to prenatal exams, prepared childbirth classes, and experiencing labor and delivery from a patient perspective. As the patient, Dr. Hobbs admits, "It's really hard to be a patient, not the doctor!"

In the Right Hands

Dr. Jacqueline Hobbs and husband Rich were looking forward to becoming first-time parents. Dr. Hobbs stated that she is considered an older maternity patient and explains, "My age brought some additional risks for pregnancy. It wasn't as easy for us to get pregnant and because of my specific risk factors, I

had to do some checkups with a high-risk pregnancy doctor. The specialist and Dr. Connie Novak at Memorial Health Care Systems in Seward worked closely together throughout that process. I was so thankful to be cleared of the risks and able to deliver with my physician Dr. Connie Novak," she said. When asked about this process Dr. Hobbs admitted, "As a physician, you are aware of all the risks and potential complications. It can be scary to be a physician who is the patient with all that extra knowledge. Dr. Novak is an exceptional physician and gives her patients every reassurance. It's nice to have someone to deliver your baby that you trust 100%."

A Special Kind of Care

Dr. Hobbs had total confidence in her doctor and was also impressed with the nursing care at Memorial Hospital. Expectant parents can have confidence

that they're being cared for by a team of highly skilled and dedicated nurses, who are experienced in providing obstetric care. "The nursing staff is excellent both as professionals and human beings who truly care for their patients," Dr. Hobbs explains. "The nurses really connect with



Morgan Rathjen, RN and Connie Novak, MD give baby Everly a check-up.

their patients and cater to their needs during this special time. Everybody gives you the best care and service, even for dad, not just mom and baby!"

At MHCS our patients are our priority. We recognize each mom and baby as a precious gift. It is our privilege to journey with you and your family in this new beginning and throughout every phase of life. Dr. Hobbs said she chose to practice at Memorial Health Care Systems because, "It's the kind of place I want my patients to go for care and for their special moment, the delivery of their baby." Now, delivering her first child with MHCS, Dr. Hobbs got to experience first hand what originally drew her to MHCS in the first place.

Dr. Connie Novak was there for Dr. Hobbs through every stage of her prenatal appointments, labor and delivery. "It is a huge compliment to be trusted to care for moms and babies, especially another physician you work with and respect," said Dr. Novak.

(Continued on page 2)



New parents Jacqueline Hobbs, MD and Rich Hobbs admire baby Everly born at Memorial Hospital on December 10, 2019.

Hobbs baby (continued)

“This is a truly special place to deliver babies, I delivered my children here and now Dr. Hobbs has delivered her baby here too. You aren’t just a patient or a number. When you deliver at Memorial Hospital you are our neighbors, friends, a part of our community,” said Dr. Novak.

“Each mother, baby and delivery are unique and we are always prepared to support the new parents through their delivery. If the unexpected does occur, the birthing rooms at MHCS are right near the nurse’s station, so patients are only steps away from help,” Dr. Novak says. “The operating rooms are located right next door, so we can handle an unexpected cesarean delivery very quickly.”

Dr. Hobbs was blessed with a fairly normal labor and delivery. Baby Everly Ann was welcomed to the world on December 10, 2019, at 3:06 pm weighing 7 lbs 15.5 oz. Everly Ann is a happy and healthy baby girl with a full head of dark brown hair! The new parents shared that Everly really likes dad’s beard and is already vocally expressing to her parents just what she needs! Everly has been eating and sleeping really well. Congratulations to Rich & Dr. Hobbs!



Contact Us

If you’re pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant, call Megan our OB Supervisor at 402-643-2971. Our knowledgeable Maternity Department can explain our services, help you find a physician, schedule free tours, and provide registration for childbirth, breastfeeding, and family education classes. Call today and let us help guide you through your parenthood journey.

Financial Assistance Available

Memorial Hospital is committed to caring for our patients, including patients who financially are unable to pay for hospital services. We encourage patients to apply for financial assistance if they believe that they are unable to pay all or part of their hospital bills.

Learn about our Financial Assistance Program by contacting the hospital patient accounts department at Memorial Hospital, 300 N. Columbia Ave., Seward, NE, 68434 or call (402) 646-4704.

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MHCS Mission: We enhance the quality of life for individuals in our communities by providing excellence in health care services in the most appropriate settings.

Memorial Health Care Systems is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation governed by its Board of Directors and the citizens who serve as members of the corporation. The purpose of this publication is to inform the community about the Systems’ services, events, and to foster wellness by providing its readers with general health education. Please address questions concerning this publication to its editor Mallory Gibreal, 402-646-4627 or Mallory.Gibreal@mhcs.us. © 2020 – MHCS

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Seward Family Medical Center
402-643-4800

The Importance of Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

The Medicare Annual Wellness Visit is a benefit that is free to Medicare patients. This visit is a comprehensive review of your health, things that may be affecting your health, and prevention services. There is not a physical examination during this appointment. During this visit, we make a plan together to maintain your health and to stay current with preventive care and screenings. J.B. Ketner, MD, Family Medicine at Seward Family Medical Center says, “We want to keep our patients healthy and prevent diseases before they happen. Your annual wellness visits are very important for the preventive side of your medical care. At MHCS, our Physician Assistants Jay Brooks, Amy Fischer, and Miri Ann Pelc, under the supervision of your primary doctor, can perform the wellness care visit.”

The goal of this visit is to create a complete personal and family health history, complete assessments and identify any needed preventive screenings. This will give us a way to develop and update your personalized prevention plan based on your own current health and risk factors to prevent disease or disability. There are many benefits to receiving this annual wellness visit.

Patient Benefits

- No co-pay - Medicare covers the cost of the Annual Wellness Visit.
- Annual, comprehensive evaluation focused on overall wellness and prevention
- Early disease detection and prevention
- Maximize wellness
- Prevent accidents at home
- Keep patients out of the hospital
- Delay long-term care

What should you bring to your visit?

- Any medical records you have, including immunization records.
- Any family health history you have, in as much detail as possible.
- A complete list of medications you take, including vitamins, supplements, and herbs. For each medication, write down how often and how much of each you take.
- A list of healthcare providers and suppliers currently involved in your care.

Your Physician Assistants



Jay Brooks, PA-C



Amy Fischer, PA-C



Miri Ann Pelc, PA-C

Your Family Physicians



Trisha Sams, MD; Connie Novak, MD; Jason Summa, MD; J.B. Ketner, MD; Brandon Henley, DO; Joel Gabriel, MD; Robert Wergin, MD; Robert Wall, MD; James Plasek, MD; Jacqueline Hobbs, MD.

Milford Family Medical Center
402-761-3307

Utica Family Medical Center
402-534-2081