

A publication for Christiana Care Health System physicians and employees

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## Christiana Care launches integrated Spine Surgery Center

Christiana Care realized a major milestone in the advancement of spine treatment in our community with the launching of the Spine Surgery Center of Excellence on the fourth floor, in the Bank of America Pavilion.

The 15-bed Spine Surgery Center integrates comprehensive care into a single setting. Treatment encompasses state-of-the-art evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and education, reports Magdy Boulos, M.D., chief of the Surgical Spine Service.

"The Center provides the best surgical management of spine disorders by offering the most advanced techniques and technologies, including minimally invasive surgery accomplished with image guidance, as well as the latest in spinal fusion, artificial disks and disk replacement," Dr. Boulos says. The Center includes 12 surgeons – four orthopedic spine surgeons and eight neurosurgeons.

### Integrated treatment

A core component of the Spinal Multidisciplinary Neurosciences and Orthopedics program, and modeled in part after the Joint Replacement Center at Wilmington Hospital, the Center unites neurosurgical, orthopedic, imaging,

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From left, Magdy Boulos, M.D., chief of Surgical Spine Service, nurse manager Jennifer Johnson, RN, and Teresa Kitko, PA-C, work closely in the new 15-bed Spine Surgery Center of Excellence.

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physiatry, anesthesiology, outpatient assessment and pain specialists into an integrated delivery system.

"An important key to developing an effective spine surgery center is successfully working with existing spine care services in the community" comments Chairman of Surgery Michael Rhodes, M.D. The Center's multidisciplinary team provides optimal care before, during and after surgery for patients afflicted with a range of spinal disorders. "Admitted patients are treated for cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine disorders, which includes conditions such as degenerative diseases, herniated discs, spinal stenosis, tumors and spinal cord injuries," says Dr. Boulos.

*"An important key to developing an effective spine surgery center is successfully working with existing spine care services in the community."*

– Michael Rhodes, M.D.,  
Chairman of Surgery

### Outcomes research

The Center also provides a stage for outcomes research. Dr. Rhodes indicates that results, published under the aegis of the Christiana Care Center for Outcomes Research, helps achieve several important objectives, including:

- Setting and supporting standards of care based on outcomes research.
- Fostering innovation.
- Reducing unnecessary variations in care.
- Promoting physician governance.

Dr. Boulos points out that Christiana Care performs nearly 2,000 spinal surgeries each year. "With that many annual cases, it's important to develop an outcomes study that will help us determine where we go from here as far as results and patient satisfaction," he says. ☉