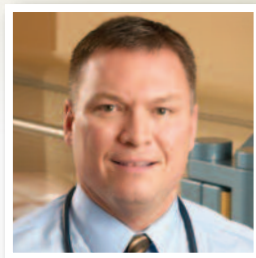




Mercy Employee



Timothy Sagers, MD
Medical Director of Mercy's
Business Health Solutions

You just can't do your best work when you are sick or stressed. Trying to fit in a doctor's visit for yourself or your children just adds to your worries. You either have to miss work, find a way to squeeze in an appointment or, in some cases, just don't make the time to receive the healthcare services you need.

This fall marked the beginning of a new model of healthcare in Cedar Rapids – and a simple solution for employees and their families of Mercy Medical Center and Mercy Physician Services – with the opening of the Mercy Employee Health Center (EHC). Located in the 8th & 8th Medical Office Building, the EHC is just a skywalk away from Mercy Medical Center and offers same-day appointments for acute illnesses or injuries when appointments are made by 10 a.m. Employees also can utilize the center for work injuries that do not require emergency care, preventative wellness and other

healthcare needs. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, with 24/7 on-call coverage provided.

The first of its kind in this area, the EHC sets the trend for innovative, high-quality healthcare. The goal is to enhance the healthcare of Mercy employees and their families through convenient access to top-notch, coordinated care provided through MercyCare Community Physicians, with full-time physician Dr. Robin Barnett and full-time nurse practitioner Betty Hoffman.

"Mercy is excited to offer this unique

Health Center

employee benefit. The appointment schedule offers employees premium time slots, such as first thing in the morning, over lunch and primary shift changes," says Doug Jontz, vice president of Human Resources. "The EHC is an integrated, coordinated system of care, with high standards for service, extending *The Mercy Touch*® to employees, and their spouses and dependents."

The reduction of employee productivity at work due to chronic health problems or illness costs the U.S. economy more than \$150 billion annually and accounts for 71 percent of the total cost of productivity within an organization, according to research cited by

information and scheduling.

The center is designed with a separate entrance and exit to enhance confidentiality and privacy. After check-in, patients wait in their own patient care suite featuring an exam room, bathroom and seating area—complete with a big-screen TV to allow interactive overview and

health and well-being advocacy group Healthways. Locally, many area businesses offer health and wellness programs (such as Mercy's Health2Work™ program) to reduce loss of productivity, as well as improve the overall mental and physical health of their employees.

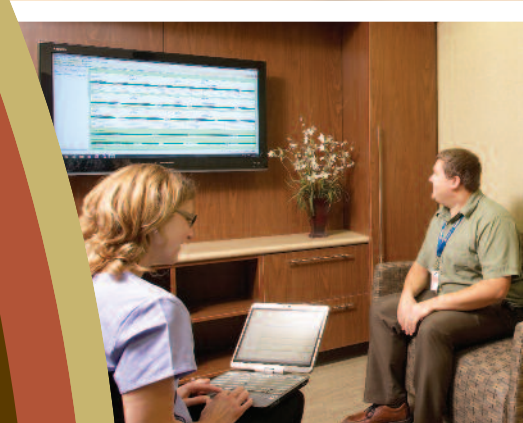
"This model of employee healthcare is on the cutting edge of what progressive companies around the country are doing. An employee health center can be integrated into any business seeking ways to improve employee health and wellness," explains Dr. Timothy Sagers, medical director of Mercy's Business Health Solutions. "It's exciting to be a leader in our community and we are hearing great feedback from our employees since it opened Oct. 3."

Patients' electronic health records are seamlessly shared with their primary care physicians, allowing for coordinated care. While the EHC is intended to complement rather than replace employees' primary care physicians, employees and their families may rely on the clinic as their medical home if they do not have one. A patient portal offers personalized and convenient remote access to healthcare

discussion of health records between patients and care providers.

Health coaches at the center conduct pre-visit chart reviews and work one-on-one with individuals to find new ways to inspire healthier habits, promote prevention and wellness, and reach their health goals.

"A lot of planning and thought went into the design and flow of the Employee Health Center," says Dr. Sagers. "It sets the stage for a transformation in the way physicians provide care in our community. Patients love the care suites and the opportunity to sit down with their healthcare provider and review their records."



For a virtual tour of Mercy's Employee Health Center, visit www.mercycare.org.