

Organizations that experience success with a well-established, fully-functional cath lab often find that initial achievement of goals is quickly followed by questions about how to sustain it for the long term. The inclusion of neurovascular interventional capabilities within the cath lab setting can be key to optimal utilization of resources, increased staff efficiency, and streamlined operations. AdventHealth Tampa, a 536-bed hospital in Tampa, Florida took advantage of the heart and brain connection and Corazon had the opportunity to discuss with Brigitte Shaw and Dr. James Lefler about their program.



Q What was the impetus for co-locating cardiology and neurovascular services?

A Brigitte had the idea to co-locate these services - she took Dr. Lefler to see the space and he loved it. They had cath team members who were experienced and trained them in neuro. It was the best decision they ever made. Having everyone together to utilize their strengths and help the patient is what it's really all about.

Q What is the most valuable part of co-locating these services?

A Getting patients up to the lab in a speedy fashion and the ability to get techs up to the lab as fast as possible. They have a CV Coordinator who takes care of getting teams organized, anesthesia, patient consent, etc. All the physicians have to worry about is caring for the patient. Their techs and nurses are interchangeable since they are trained on all sides which helps speed up the process. It has had an extremely positive affect on patient volumes.

Q What value has this brought to the program in terms of operational/financial outcomes & Physician Relationships?

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Operational/Financial: They were able to utilize the economies of scale to support staffing/resources/supplies. Hospital expenses have been minimized - products are now all in the same space with the cardiac/neuro crossover.
Physician Relationships: There is a sense of camaraderie between physicians now. It's a collaborative environment that allows physician specialties to communicate and discuss patients.

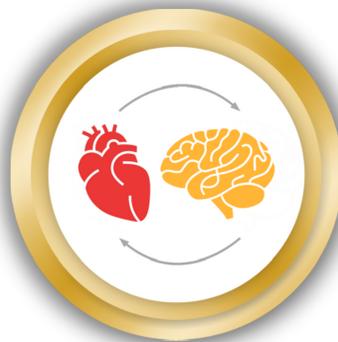
Q Do you have any lessons learned that you would share with others that are considering leveraging these linkages?

A As long as you have dedicated physicians, it will work. This has been going on for 10 years now. It takes guts but it was worth it and they would absolutely do it again.

Q Are there plans to expand on this experience or continue it moving forward?

A They brought in another Neurointerventional Radiologist and are looking at using hybrid operating rooms. As volumes increase, they are getting creative with what spaces they can share. How do they keep partnering with other departments? The new tower will have neurosurgery & there will be access to cath labs. From a digestive health institute perspective, they are bringing together acute care surgery and bariatric surgery (subservice lines) at the bariatric institute and want to continue to create signature service lines.

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Time is heart.
Time is brain.
- Dr. Lefler, AdventHealth Tampa
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AdventHealth in Tampa, Florida has taken the synergies between the heart and brain and capitalized on them. This connection has brought a wealth of opportunity and growth for their hospital. They are now equipped to handle other possible co-locations of services that will lead to improved financial, operational, and clinical outcomes for their hospital.