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Samaritan Healthcare
801 E. Wheeler Road
Moses Lake, WA
98837



the Samaritan

Improving workforce health and productivity. Samaritan Occupational Medicine

Samaritan Healthcare's new occupational medicine department focuses on creating a healthier workforce by caring for employees' preventive health and treating their injuries, illnesses, and disabilities that happen while they're at work.

Our occupational medicine department is led by Brandon Penix, DO. He partners with area businesses to provide services such as pre-employment physicals, drug screenings, return-to-work evaluations, immunizations, and DOT certifications. He also manages workers' compensation cases and works closely with personal injury attorneys to complete independent medical exams.


"As an occupational medicine physician, I advocate for both my patients and their employers," said Dr. Penix. "I partner with my patients to provide preventive health screenings and immunizations, and I treat their work-related illness and injuries and help them return to work quickly. Employees are healthier, and businesses benefit from increased productivity and a reduction in workers compensation expenses."

Dr. Penix has years of experience in occupational medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Colorado in Denver, Colorado, where he provided care for all City of Denver employees including the fire, public works, and police departments. Dr. Penix also served in the United States Army as a General Medical Officer, where he evaluated wounded soldiers' fitness-for-duty. Dr. Penix is part of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries' Medical Provider Network (MPN), as well as a certified DOT Medical Examiner, and a licensed Medical Review Officer (MRO).



Dr. Brandon Penix, Occupational Medicine physician at Samaritan Healthcare

"I'm grateful to be able to provide access to occupational medicine services for the aerospace, agriculture, and manufacturing industries in our community," said Dr. Penix. "Employees can now receive care without having to travel far or wait months for an appointment."

Dr. Penix provides care at Samaritan Clinic on Patton, located at 8420 Aspi Boulevard. To learn more about Samaritan's Occupational Medicine services visit samaritanhealthcare.com/occmed. 

Services offered by Dr. Penix include:

- Pre-employment (post-offer) exams
- Annual surveillance physicals
- DOT CDL medical exams
- Drug screening & breath alcohol testing
- Medical Review Officer (MRO) services
- Tuberculosis screening
- Initial & follow up injury treatments
- Return-to-Work evaluations
- OSHA respirator surveillance
- Employer-required immunizations
- DOT random management services
- Audiogram testing
- Chemical exposures
- Propellant exposures
- Independent Medical Exams (IME)



Samaritan Clinic on Patton:
8420 Aspi Blvd, Moses Lake
Appointments: (509) 793-9770
Urgent Care: (509) 793-9790

Samaritan Clinic on Pioneer:
1550 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake
Appointments: (509) 793-9770

Samaritan Business Building:
1616 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake

Cardiology News



Samaritan Cardiology

Heart health expertise arrives in Moses Lake

If you have a heart condition or a family history of heart disease, or if you are recovering from a heart attack, heart failure, or stroke, advanced cardiology services are now available at Samaritan Clinic on Pioneer.

Our new on-site cardiologist, Raj Karnik, MD, advanced cardiology services to help patients reduce their risk of heart disease and manage their heart conditions. He uses a combination of treatments which includes prescribing medication and suggesting lifestyle changes to improve heart health.

Dr. Karnik also has immediate access to additional cardiology resources in the region. While most heart conditions can be treated at Samaritan Healthcare, a seamless connection between Samaritan and our regional partners allows Dr. Karnik to treat more complex cardiovascular conditions.

Talk to your primary care provider about a referral for cardiology. Learn more at samaritanhealthcare.com.



Raj Karnik, MD

Hospital News



Welcome, new providers!

Cardiologist **Dr. Raj Karnik** will lead Samaritan Healthcare's new, on-site Cardiology department. Dr. Karnik brings decades of expertise in providing comprehensive cardiology care. As our resident cardiologist, he's excited to establish a local cardiology presence in Moses Lake, and to lay a strong foundation for a robust, durable, sustainable practice for the future.

"Healing is more than just understanding the mechanics of a disease. Understanding the entirety of a person is critical—the things they've learned, the way they approach their condition, and their life experiences," said Dr. Karnik. "Knowing the patient helps me to design individual treatment plans that work best for them."

Dr. George Hneich is dual board-certified in Psychiatry and Geriatric Psychiatry. Dr. Hneich specializes in preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental, behavioral, and emotional disorders in adults. He focuses on putting the patient first and working with them to create a care plan, which may include a mix of therapies and medications.

Dr. Hneich is also a fluent Spanish speaker, which allows him to communicate more easily with patients whose primary language is not English.

"Every patient is different in different ways, but they can all get better," said Dr. Hneich. "Watching my patients' mental health improve and seeing them become functional again—and enjoying their daily lives again—is very rewarding."

Board-certified psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner **Brittany Kesten** has joined Samaritan's Behavior Health team. Brittany has spent her entire career in mental health, caring for patients of all ages—young children to adults. She diagnoses mental health disorders and provides therapy sessions. She also educates patients about their diagnoses, medications, and behavioral modifications. Connecting with her patients is what brings Brittany joy—she sees patients as people, not as symptoms, and not as a diagnosis.

"It's a sign of strength to ask for help when you need it," said Brittany Kesten. "It's not a sign of weakness to ask for help, and there is no reason to continue to suffer unnecessarily when help is available. I'm here to help."



Raj Karnik, MD
Cardiology



Georges Hneich, MD
Behavioral and Mental Health



Brittany Kesten, PMHNP-BC
Behavioral and Mental Health



Make an appointment:
Raj Karnik, MD, George Hneich, MD, Brittany Kesten, PMHNP-BC, are accepting new patients.
To make an appointment, call 509.793.9770.

Samaritan High-Risk Pregnancy Services

Partnership with Providence brings specialty maternity care closer to home.


If you're pregnant and require additional screening due to high-risk medical conditions or risk factors such as diabetes, advanced maternal age, an abnormal genetic screening, or other conditions, you no longer have to travel far to receive care.

Samaritan Healthcare Obstetrics & Gynecology, in collaboration with Providence Medical Group, now offers state-of-the-art Level 2 anatomy ultrasounds and additional specialty care at Samaritan Clinic on Pioneer.

"Our ability to perform both Level 1 and Level 2 anatomy ultrasounds means mothers-to-be who live in Moses Lake and our surrounding communities don't have to travel to Seattle or Spokane to receive the diagnostic imaging they need for a high-risk pregnancy," said Ryan Rasmussen, MD, OB/GYN at Samaritan Healthcare.

The ultrasounds performed at Samaritan are interpreted by fellowship-trained Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane. The findings are sent to the patient's local provider, who may further collaborate with Providence to coordinate intervening measures or specialists, or to provide specialty care via telehealth.

"Providence's collaboration with Samaritan Healthcare helps extend clinical expertise for those who may be experiencing a high-risk pregnancy," says Douglas Barber, MD, medical director for Providence's Maternal-Fetal Medicine program and Providence High Risk Pregnancy Clinic. "By providing these services through our telehealth program, we are able to keep patients closer to home and minimize trips to Spokane. And if they should need to come to Spokane, patients are already connected to our specialists and the region's only children's hospital."

If your pregnancy is considered high risk, speak with your OB provider to receive a referral to Samaritan Clinic and Providence High Risk Pregnancy Clinic. 



Receive specialized care and treatment for many issues including:

- Alcohol, drug, or tobacco use during pregnancy
- Autoimmune disease
- Type 1 Diabetes
- First-time pregnancy after age 35
- Diabetes in pregnancy
- Family history of genetic disease
- High blood pressure
- Genetic conditions in the developing baby
- History of miscarriage
- History of preterm birth or stillbirth
- HIV/AIDS
- Kidney disease
- Multiple gestation (twins, triplets or more)
- Obesity
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- Preeclampsia and eclampsia
- Physical defects or abnormalities in the developing baby

Mother/Baby Center News


Nationally recognized maternity care

Samaritan's Mother and Baby Center earned a 2021 BlueCross BlueShield Blue Distinction Center (BDC+) designation. Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care are recognized for their expertise and a commitment to quality care for vaginal and cesarean section deliveries—including better patient satisfaction and a lower percentage of early elective deliveries. Samaritan is one of six healthcare organizations in Washington to receive this designation, and the only one within our region. This is the second time Samaritan has been awarded this distinction. Samaritan Orthopaedics also received the BDC designation in 2019.

"High-quality, patient-focused care has always been our standard," said Dr. Ryan Rasmussen, OB/GYN. "Throughout pregnancy and delivery, we partner with our patients to provide the best possible prenatal and postpartum care for a safe and comfortable childbirth experience."

Moms-to-be who choose Samaritan for maternity care are supported and cared for by highly qualified doctors, advanced

practitioners, nurses, and healthcare staff. Samaritan provides compassionate nursing care, state-of-the-art technology, pain relief options, and highly skilled OB providers—including a certified nurse midwife.

To schedule an appointment with Samaritan OB/GYN, call (509) 793.9786 or learn more at samaritanhealthcare.com. 



Volunteer Spotlight



Volunteers needed!

Make new friends, give back to the community, learn new skills.

Do you love working with people? Do you enjoy helping others? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity where you can safely interact with members of our community? We'd love your help in the gift shop!

As a gift shop volunteer, you'll greet customers, assist with merchandise, and process transactions. (We'll also need help with light stocking and cleaning on occasion, too.) No retail experience is required. Volunteer hours are Monday through Friday.

Volunteering is safe. We continue to follow all the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19—including wearing masks and social distancing.

All gift shop proceeds are used by the Samaritan Healthcare Foundation to continue to help make high-quality healthcare services and programs available through Samaritan Healthcare.



Our volunteers enjoy assisting customers in the gift shop!

Next steps for becoming a volunteer:

1. Submit an application online or in person at the hospital
2. Interview with the Coordinator of Volunteer Services
3. Have background and reference checks
4. Meet with Employee Health
5. Attend orientation

For more information about volunteering or to apply, call (509) 793-9724 or visit samaritanhealthcare.com/volunteer.

Ask

SAMARITAN

@samaritan.healthcare

Watch for our next monthly Ask Samaritan event—live on Facebook!

Need a HEALTH PARTNER?

ADULT AND INTERNAL MEDICINE

Zubair Ali, MD
Jazab Sheikh, MD
James Ewell, PA-C

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Fiza Khan, MD
George Hneich, MD
Nicole Avila-Parker, ARNP, PMHNP-BC
Teresa Hutsell, ARNP, PMHNP-BC
Jonathan Ingram, ARNP, PMHNP-BC
Brittany Kesten, PMHNP-BC
Fabian Gonzales, LMHC
Heather Anderson, LICSW

CARDIOLOGY

Raj Karnik, MD

FAMILY MEDICINE

Andrea Carter, MD
Hayley Heesemann, MD
Stephen Noorlander, MD
Pranav Patel, MD
Sahand Vafadary, MD
Tara Zamarron, ARNP, FNP-C
Cheyenne Faeh, PA-C

GASTROENTEROLOGY

Paul Warfield, MD
H. Scott Mounts, ARNP

OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

Brandon Penix, DO

OB-GYN

Ryan Rasmussen, MD
Lizzy Bonadies, CNM

ORTHOPAEDICS

Leo Chough, MD
Brett DeGooyer, DO
Chris Stone, PA-C

PAIN MANAGEMENT

Kemesha Delisser, MD
Amanda Yanska, ARNP

PEDIATRICS

Sara Ali, MD
Calle Ann Gonzales, MD
Ladan Modallel, MD, FAAP
Kimberlee E. Poole, ARNP

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

Sara Ali, MD

PODIATRY

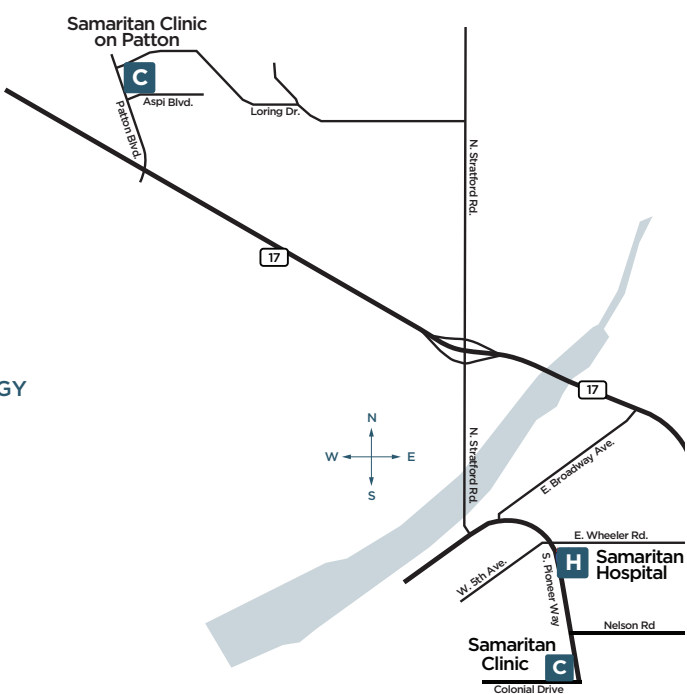
Arezou Amidi, DPM

URGENT CARE

Bob Ebel, PA-C
Brett Hymas, PA-C
Rich Stowe, PA-C
Christina Thurston, PA-C
Robert Weiss, PA-C

UROLOGY

Trisha Kruger, MD



the Samaritan

THE SAMARITAN is published as a community service for the friends and patrons of SAMARITAN HEALTHCARE, 801 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837, telephone 509-765-5606, website samaritanhealthcare.com.

Gretchen Youngren Executive Director of Development & Communications

Information in THE SAMARITAN comes from a wide range of medical experts. If you have any concerns or questions about specific content that may affect your health, please contact your healthcare provider.

SUMMER 2021

Follow us on:  

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