



Parkview Samaritan Program Achieves International CAMTS Accreditation

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Parkview Health System's Samaritan program was recently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS). This is an international accreditation that demands high level safety and care standards for both air and ground transport units. CAMTS is a peer review organization that is dedicated to improving patient care and transport safety by providing a dynamic accreditation process through the development of standards, education, and services that support the highest level of care and safety for the patients and crew. Factors examined when reviewing a program for accreditation include, but are not limited to, management and staffing, quality management, patient care, communications, rotor wing standards, surface standards, and special operations. The Samaritan program is one of only five programs in Indiana to achieve such an accreditation, and the only one in northeast Indiana. This CAMTS accreditation validates the exceptional quality of care and safety provided via air and ground services offered at Parkview Health. The Samaritan accreditation runs through September 2019.



The CAMTS accredited Samaritan Flight and Ground Program consists of two helicopters as well as a Mobile Intensive Care Unit ambulance. The flight program consists of two French-made American Eurocopter 365 N-2 Dauphin model twin engine aircraft. Our pilots and aircraft are instrument flight rules (IFR) certified and capable. The addition of military grade night vision goggles (NVGs) for each crew member enhances operational safety, improves situational awareness, and increases the ability to see and avoid obstructions at night.

These helicopters can fly, on average, 180mph and cover a 100-mile radius around each of the two bases. Parkview Regional Medical Center is the home for Samaritan 1 while Samaritan 2 is based out of Fulton County Airport in Rochester, Indiana. Each aircraft is equipped to transport two adult patients and carries equipment needed to care for critical adult and pediatric patients.

The highly trained crew consists of a pilot, a nurse, and paramedic. A specialized neonatal team including a NICU nurse and respiratory therapist can be utilized if warranted. The specialized NICU team was also awarded coverage under the CAMTS accreditation process, validating their care of our most precious assets.

The Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) was added to the program in 2010. The ground crew consists of a critical care nurse, a paramedic, and an EMT. This crew is trained exactly as the flight medical crew.

The only difference when talking about this mode of transportation is the speed at which the crew can get to the patient and the amount of time that it will take to get the patient to the final destination. The MICU is utilized for patients that need a higher level of care during transport from one facility to another. Often times when the aircraft is unable to fly due to weather conditions, the MICU is utilized for transport. In addition to local inter-facility transports, the MICU ambulance and crew have been to Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Toledo, Cleveland, Lexington, and even Pittsburgh.



The Samaritan team is highly trained in all aspects of emergency care. In addition to mastering highly advanced surgical skills, each medical crew member must be currently certified in ACLS, PALS, PHTLS, NRP, and TPATC. Specialized national transport certifications are also mandatory for the medical crew within two years of hire into the program. Nurses are required to have their CFRN or CTRN and paramedics are required to obtain their FP-C or CCP-C. This helps up provide each patient with the highest level of expert care and safety during their flight or ground transport.

Samaritan Paramedic Biography

Kerry Passwater

Kerry Passwater gained an interest in EMS in 1999 when he joined his local volunteer fire department. In 2001, he achieved his EMT certification and in 2005, he completed paramedic training at Ivy Tech. He joined Parkview in 2005 as a paramedic with Parkview Huntington EMS. He transitioned to the Samaritan team in 2010. He initially served as a paramedic with the Critical Care Transport Truck and then moved to the Mobile ICU later that year.

Kerry and his wife, Loretta, have a 4-year old son named Henry. In his spare time, Kerry enjoys woodworking and traveling with his family.



Samaritan Nurse Biography

Jon Hoepfner, RN, EMS-B, FF I/II

Jon was born and raised into a family of first responders. He is third generation to have joined the Woodburn Fire Department starting his emergency services career in 1993. The following year he became an EMT and currently serves as the Safety Officer for the Woodburn Fire Department. He returned to school in 2001 to advance his medical career and began his employment with Parkview as an ER technician. In conjunction with going through school Jon worked as a student nurse and nurse intern in the ER prior to becoming an RN in 2004. Working at Parkview Level II Adult/ Pediatric Trauma Center served as a well-rounded base for Jon prior to joining the initiating team of Samaritan Mobile Intensive Care Unit in the summer of 2010. Jon has also been cross-trained to flight and enjoys both aspects that Samaritan provides.

Jon and his wife Sarah have been blessed with their daughter Addie, and are soon expecting girl number two. Their time is consumed with the abundance of joy with their family and friends. Jon is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing, especially with his dad.

