

Everyone at the St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute is focused on getting patients the answers they need quickly, providing the most effective plan for healing and ensuring their experience is a positive one.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Under One Roof

St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute Simplifies Orthopedic Care

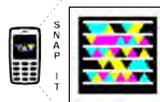
By Brenda Lange

We don't normally associate the phrase 'one-stop shopping' with healthcare, but at St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute, that's exactly what you get.

Say you have pain in your knee. You don't know where to begin, so you go to your primary care physician, who refers you to an orthopedic specialist. He sends you for x-rays, then has you return to his office to review those films. You are referred again to a pain specialist, a physical therapist, and a separate facility to be fitted for a knee brace. Oh, and don't forget to stop off at the pharmacy to get your prescription filled.

All this running around not only wastes precious time, but adds expense and stress to your situation. Enter the St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute, which has put an end to all that.

Located at 1534 Park Avenue in Quakertown, the St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute has been open for a little more than a year. More than 20 clinicians in the fields of orthopedics, podiatry, rheumatology, neurosurgery, physical therapy and interventional pain medicine can be found here, all under one roof. Services including laboratory, radiology, occupational therapy and a pharmacy and medical equipment supplier also are located at this site.



Visit www.gettag.mobi to download the free app and then scan the tag with your phone to be directed to a TV spot about St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute.



Nearly \$10 million was spent to build the center, with the ultimate goal of alleviating patients' pain, not only their physical pains, but also those experienced through medical care that is outdated, inconvenient and stressful.

The building is state-of-the-art, spacious and welcoming, with a floor plan designed to be convenient and user friendly. So you can see your specialist, go to the first floor for physical therapy, head across the lobby for your brace and stop at the in-house pharmacy on your way back out to your car.

Patient-centered Care

Of course, all medical care is centered around the patient and what's best for his or her health and wellbeing, but having all aspects of a patient's treatment plan and care in one building, allows quick communication between various providers, meaning faster, more efficient care for the patient.

"It allows us the ability to provide a totality of care more conveniently for the patient, and it provides me with easier contact with my colleagues," says orthopedic specialist, Zigmund Strzelecki, MD. "We're able to provide a complete spectrum of care, and in working so closely together, we frequently assist one another and share new information."

In addition to the latest in technology—such as electronic, portable notebooks that make record-keeping and charting easier and safer—the St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute program includes physicians and therapists who work as teams.

The practice was a godsend for Bob Hamill who is relocating to Saucon Valley from Colorado, and used the pain management services at the Institute. "I had two Cortisone shots for pain in my neck that radiated down my left arm. I was very impressed. Everything was what I'd hoped it would be and I had a positive experience. The best part is my pain was dramatically reduced," he says.

An Idea Grows

The St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute is one part of an impressive expansion project taken on by St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital in the past decade. More than 50,000 square feet of space dedicated to outpatient services has already been added. According to the PA Health Care Cost Containment Council, St. Luke's has remained the fastest growing hospital in the region for the second consecutive year.

The hospital recognized that it needed more space in order to expand its services to keep pace with the increasing regional population. Originally planned to be a medical office building housing unrelated services, the Bone & Joint Institute evolved into a sub-specialty center focused on the needs of orthopedic and neuromuscular patients.

"We realized that we had a real opportunity to create a better patient experience by locating complementary specialists in the same space," says Ed Nawrocki, the hospital's president. "As we started to explore this concept, we began to attract physicians interested in joining. In fact, 80 percent of the specialists practicing in this facility were new to Quakertown."

Not only the medical community, but the community at large, got behind the project. Representative Paul Clymer secured \$250,000 to support equipment purchases for the St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute and the St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital medical staff donated \$25,000 toward the 23,000 square-foot building—where it's all about the patient.

The St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute is located at 1534 Park Avenue in Quakertown, PA. For more information, call 1-(866)-STLUKES or visit www.slhn.org. BL

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