



Neuroscience Vision for New Mexico, 2024 and Beyond

As a rural state with limited healthcare resources, New Mexico faces a growing need for wide-ranging neuroscience care for patients who suffer from conditions including strokes, brain aneurysms, neck, spine and low back pain, and epilepsy. To meet this need, **Presbyterian's vision is to serve as a leading provider of Neuroscience care in New Mexico and reduce or eliminate the need for patients to travel out of state for this important specialty care.**

Neuroscience is a complex field that includes many subspecialties. Presbyterian's expanded Neuroscience program will include the following areas.

- Ambulatory Neurology (includes epilepsy care)
- Low back pain navigation
- Neurocritical Care
- Neurohospitalists
- Neurosurgery
- Spine Pain
- Stroke Care
- Telestroke
- Teleneurology

Our Vision for Neuroscience

- The Presbyterian Neuroscience program serves our communities throughout the state with high-quality and high-value neurological and neurosurgical care.
- Presbyterian's foundation of primary stroke care and neurology will extend statewide, both within and beyond Presbyterian facilities.
- Presbyterian neuroscience clinicians will guide patients to the venue that can best address their back and spine pain with services ranging from rehab to surgery.
- Presbyterian's surgical technologies and capabilities will evolve to meet the needs of patients, providing cutting-edge technologies that provide excellent care at the highest value.

Plans for Expansion

- Neuroscience care is centralized at Presbyterian Hospital, with simple spine procedures extending to Presbyterian Rust Medical Center (RMC) and potentially Presbyterian Santa Fe Medical Center (SFMC) in 2024.
 - The Inpatient Neurology department at Presbyterian Hospital is a **Certified Primary Stroke Center** with five **neurohospitalists** who provide general neurology care. Eagle Telemedicine provides telestroke care across the enterprise.
 - The Presbyterian Medical Group (**PMG**) **Ambulatory Neurology Clinic** currently has 11 providers, including hybrid and telemedicine clinicians, who specialize in

general neurology, epilepsy, perioperative stroke care, multiple sclerosis and headaches.

- A **hybrid operating room (OR)** with equipment for endovascular neurosurgical procedures as well as a new surgical navigation platform that uses sophisticated real-time imaging to guide surgeons as they operate. This new room will allow surgeons to perform complex, minimally invasive procedures in the OR for patients who would otherwise have to leave the Presbyterian system or even the state.
- Plans for a dedicated **Neuro Critical Care Unit** at Presbyterian Hospital are also underway, with demand/volume, regulatory requirements, and intermediate capabilities under consideration. The unit will care for complex post-surgical patients who require continuous monitoring and treatments such as drains. Additional dedicated critical care beds and staff will be needed to meet the expected ratios of ICU/non-ICU beds, creating the flexibility to expand and collaborate with the existing Adult Medical ICU.
- Funded in part by PHF, earlier this year, **Teleneurology Hospitalist** expansion to 24/7/365 was completed at RMC, PresNow locations and Presbyterian Kaseman Hospital. Expansion to SFMC and Presbyterian Espanola Hospital are set for August 2023, followed by Lincoln County Medical Center, Plains Regional Medical Center, Socorro General Hospital and Dan C. Trigg Memorial Hospital in late September/October. As Presbyterian gradually develops **telestroke/teleneurology** care throughout the state, we are establishing our ability to provide statewide stroke care, ultimately reducing the number of patient transfers to other facilities.
- Eleven **Pain and Spine** providers are now employed by PMG, resulting in better interventions and alignment of care. Their areas of expertise include non-surgical pain management interventions and pain medication management, with low back pain screenings and navigation slated to begin in Q4 2023. We are rapidly recruiting and onboarding new staff, including two additional Advanced Practice Clinicians and anesthesia-trained pain interventionalists.
- **PMG Neurosurgery** currently has four neurosurgeons and four physician assistants/nurse practitioners supporting them. A new Director of Spine position is pending. This team, which specializes in general neurosurgery, cranial and skull-based treatments, spinal care, cancers/tumors, and emerging endovascular capabilities, has developed an excellent working culture that we believe will eventually establish Presbyterian as a leading provider of neuroscience care in New Mexico.
- **Low Back Pain Navigation** is a new Value-Based Care Initiative that includes early identification and treatment, navigation to the appropriate specialties as needed, and patient-reported outcomes tracking. A new Presbyterian Population Health program ensures that patients with low back pain, one of the most common complaints primary care physicians hear, are directed to the most appropriate provider. Additional resources are needed to provide continuity of care, from home to a hospital setting.

What's Needed

- To be successful, the Low Back Pain Navigation program requires the following resources:
 - **EPIC (electronic medical record) buildout** for referrals, questionnaires, flowsheets
 - a **dedicated administrative officer** to support reporting
 - **RN and APC staff** to handle centralized intake and provide navigation
 - **PT/OT staff and online alternative resources** (i.e., smartphone applications)
 - a **behavioralist** to co-manage complex cases
- To be successful, expanding Primary Stroke Care requires the following resources:
 - a **dedicated stroke coordinator** who will help stand up stroke care processes at regional facilities
 - a **telehealth resource** to support inpatient telehealth expansion. Teleneurology and telestroke capabilities are key to a successful program.
 - a **dedicated administrative officer** to support service line data reporting
 - **dedicated finance support** for the Neuroscience program
 - **Primary Stroke Certification** at SFMC
- To be successful, the expanded Neuroscience program must include:
 - development of **robust EEG services** for neurology
 - **Neurosurgeons** (3 spine, 1 cranial, 1 endovascular)
 - **4 physicians and 4 APCs** (2 for spine navigation and 2 for medication management) who are physically present in the neurosurgery clinic

Fundraising Priorities

To support this critical need, PHF established the ambitious goal to raise \$3-5 million in the next two years. This funding will supplement a \$2 million investment that created the Julia Bowdich and John Carey Chair of Neuroscience, of which Dr. Gregory Sherr is the inaugural holder.

PHF has directed an additional \$1 million to Neurosciences causes. This donor support has helped fund the O-Arm surgical navigation equipment, EEG technologist specialty training, primary stroke certification for nurses and teleneurology startup expenses.

Through the end of 2025, PHF has been asked to prioritize the following areas:

- **\$2 million** to build a hybrid operating room capable of surgical navigation. These funds will be matched by PHS funds to support multiple specialties and is essential for neuroscience program growth.
- **\$500,000** for a highly specialized navigation platform in the operating room.
- **\$500,000 to \$2.5 million** for additional capacity building, including the initiation of a phased Neuro ICU/ICU expansion project incorporating new EEG services.

We welcome your support, both in the form of introductions to potential donors in your network and your personal gifts.