

HELP

WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST...



...The Elliot's Geropsychiatric Unit (GPU)

As we age, some older adults are affected by illnesses that are not physical. Psychiatric disorders in the elderly can be devastating to a patient, a spouse and the entire family trying to cope with the changes happening to a loved one. The Geropsychiatric Unit, or GPU, at the Elliot Hospital is specifically designed to treat older adults experiencing mental status changes and psychiatric disorders in an environment that is respectful and compassionate.

The GPU is led by a Geriatric Psychiatrist, Dr. Jwalant Vadalia, and a team of caring and committed nurses, social workers, licensed nurse assistants and other support personnel. Working in collaboration with a medical physician, like a geriatrician, geriatric psychiatry benefits seniors because it addresses issues and concerns that are unique to them, paying close attention to not only the psychiatric disorders, but also to the physical, emotional and social needs of older adults. A correct diagnosing of the illness, and eliminating possible medical causes for the disturbance, allows for proper treatment and clear recommendations for follow-up care. This collaborative, between geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine, is considered best-practice and exemplifies clinical excellence in the care and treatment of psychiatric disorders for seniors.

Additionally, the GPU incorporates a comprehensive, interdisciplinary team approach to the treatment and care of these patients. Many care disciplines work together with a shared goal to keep patients safe, as independent as possible and to decrease the risk of further functional decline. The family members of patients are important members of this team as well. "We believe in the team approach to patient care", said Dr. Vadalia. "The family is part of the team and their input is critical in determining an accurate diagnosis and plan of care".

The mission of the GPU is to return the patient to an environment where they can enjoy the highest level of independence as possible while remaining safe and secure and to bring some peace and hope to the families of these patients.

For more information about the Elliot Geropsychiatric Unit, call Bryan Fisher at 663-5611. *There is help when you or a loved one needs it most.*

 **The Elliot.**
Live Better!

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