

OVERLOOK HOSPITAL'S PROPOSED HELIPAD

The Facts

Overlook Hospital is home to the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute, the leading provider of neurological care, including stroke treatment, in the region.

Because of this expertise, Overlook is called upon to provide advanced treatment to stroke patients from surrounding communities. Although most patients are transferred to Overlook by ground ambulance, some from greater distances are transported in a two-step process (first by air and then by ground). To transport these patients more efficiently, Overlook plans to add a helipad on its roof.

The time saved can have a major impact on the patient's recovery and quality of life.

For a person experiencing a stroke 'time lost is brain lost'.

- ▲ For stroke patients each additional minute treatment is delayed lessens their quality of recovery; their ability post-stroke to walk, talk and take care of themselves.
- ▲ As emphasized in a 2006 American Heart Association Scientific Statement, the chance of a good recovery decreases by 33 percent with each hour's delay in receiving stroke care.

A stroke victim typically receives initial, acute care at the nearest hospital.

If an attending physician determines the patient can benefit from advanced treatment, then the physician requests the transfer to Overlook.

Currently, a patient requiring air transport from a surrounding community is flown by helicopter to either Connell Corporate Center in Berkeley Heights during weekday business hours, or to Morristown Municipal Airport or, in a case of extreme emergency, to Celgene Corporation, and then brought by ambulance to Overlook.

With the addition of the helipad, the patient can be directly transferred to Overlook—saving an average of 20 minutes and those minutes saved in transport can lessen the severity of the brain damage, or even determine whether the patient survives.

Fundamentally, the helipad will increase the stroke patient's chances for a favorable recovery.

Overlook now receives fewer than 10 stroke patients per month by helicopter, a number not expected to rise as only certain stroke patients can benefit from Overlook's advanced diagnostics and treatments.

Overlook's helicopter, Atlantic Air One, will be the primary helicopter used to bring patients to the hospital.

- ▲ The helicopter, an EC-135 Eurocopter, is known for its safety record and low-decibel twin engines (the sound of passing cars eclipses that of the EC-135). The sound will not likely be noticed by pedestrians given the helipad's rooftop location.
- ▲ The helicopter features the latest technology (GPS, night vision goggles, radar and advanced communication system) and is operated by PHI, an experienced aviation company with an impeccable safety record.
- ▲ Unlike 'news choppers', Atlantic Air One does not hover. The whole intent of using air transport is to transfer the patient in a quick and safe manner.

The helipad will primarily be used for stroke patients who reside in surrounding communities where distance makes ground transport too slow.

Our plans for the helipad are currently under review by the Summit Zoning Board. Based on Overlook's current estimated timeline, construction would begin early next year. As with our other construction projects, work will be conducted during regular business hours. Given the size of this project, we do not anticipate any impact on traffic flow.

Overlook is not a trauma center and the addition of the helipad will not change that status; nor does the hospital want to change it. The state regulates the number and location of trauma centers to ensure appropriate coverage statewide. Fortunately, the Summit area is already well-served by trauma centers at Morristown Memorial Hospital and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

Recognizing the importance of a timely medical response, in 2004, New Jersey enacted legislation to provide access to high-level stroke care within 30 minutes of every resident. A network of Primary and Comprehensive Stroke Centers was established. Overlook was the first designated Comprehensive Stroke Center in the state. This designation recognizes Overlook's leadership role in treating stroke patients and achieving favorable outcomes.



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