

NHS and OSU Renew Emergency Physician Partnership

Northeastern Health System has extended its partnership with the OSU Center for Health Sciences (OSU CHS) to provide board certified ER physicians for the Emergency Department in Tahlequah, as of July 1, 2021. All physicians hired through this agreement are clinical faculty at OSU CHS, a collaboration begun in May 2017. Currently there are 8 board certified OSU Emergency Department physicians at NHS.

Board certified emergency department physicians complete a residency in emergency medicine and then sit for lengthy board certification exams. Becoming an ER doctor is an 11-year to 12-year process that requires completing undergraduate prerequisite courses, medical school and a residency. “We are trained to practice efficient, evidence-based emergency medicine,” stated Dr. Ana Fisher, NHS Emergency Department Director. “For the patient, this means quality medical care without unnecessary testing. For the hospital, it means better efficiency, which improves cost as well as wait times,” she added. OSU provides board certified emergency department physicians only.

As Emergency Department Director, Dr. Fisher oversees the department from a physician standpoint, monitoring metrics, scheduling, and acting as liaison between departments. OSU provides board certified emergency department physicians only. This partnership distinguishes NHS’s emergency department from many rural hospitals, who staff their emergency departments with physicians trained in family medicine because board-certified ER physicians are usually drawn to metropolitan areas. “We appreciate OSU’s ongoing commitment to improving the health of Northeast Oklahoma,” stated Brian Woodliff, CEO.