

We are a certified ventilator center in Northwestern Wisconsin that is known for providing excellent care since 1987.

Progressive Ventilator Care with Proven Outcomes

Distinctly located in our skilled nursing facility, our ventilator community encourages patients to be mobile, independent, and actively involved.

Patients and their families appreciate knowing:

- We have a strong history of liberating patients from ventilators
- Our staffing ratio is much higher than other skilled nursing facilities
- They have the opportunity to improve their communication and mobility with innovative technology including speaking valves, communication boards, computer-based communication devices (Dynavox), highly adapted electric wheelchairs with portable ventilators, state-of-the-art nurse call system, and internet access
- Their room is private and they are encouraged to personalize the room with furnishings, pictures, etc.
- Weekly care rounds focus on all aspects of their care

Physicians and discharge planners appreciate knowing:

- We have a low readmission rate to the hospital
- We manage each resident's medical condition, including IVs, tube feedings, and complex wound care
- We can assist in shortening their patient's hospital stay
- We can care for their chronic or weaning vent patient
- Approximately two-thirds of our ventilator dependent patients have been able to successfully wean
- The ventilator community's capacity is 24 patients
- We are prepared to respond promptly to inquiries and referrals seven days a week

contact us

Learn more about how you can offer your patients the best option for ventilator care.

Contact us to learn more or schedule a tour:

Sarah North, CSW
Director of Admissions
and Community Affairs
715-225-9639
snorth@wissotahealth.com

Visit our website:
www.wissotahealth.com



More
information
on back.

A Team Approach to Care

Feel confident and secure, knowing the patients you refer are supported by an accomplished and experienced team.

Our leadership and care team consist of:

- A Board-Certified Pulmonologist/Medical Director from Mayo Clinic On-Site Weekly and Available 24/7
- A Full-Time Nurse Practitioner with Extensive Pulmonary Experience
- Full-Time Respiratory Therapists
- A Ventilator Certified Nursing Team
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapists with Ventilator Training
- A Certified Social Worker



Mark Lindsay MD
Pulmonologist & Vent
Center Medical Director



Sarah North CSW
Director of Admissions
& Community Affairs



Becky Gunnarson RN
Director of Nursing



Cassandra Gabus RN
Ventilator Care Unit
Manager



Whitney Schauer RT
Director of Respiratory
Therapy

Schedule a Tour

See for yourself why Wissota Health is *The Right Choice* for short-term rehabilitative, long-term, ventilator, and end-of-life care.

We are conveniently located in the heart of the Chippewa Falls medical district, so emergency care and specialty services are close by. There is an accessible indoor passage from our campus to St. Joseph's Hospital and Marshfield Clinic.

Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center
2815 County Hwy I
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

715-723-9341 Fax: 715-723-3376 snorth@wissotahealth.com

We accept Medicare, Medicaid, private pay and contract with numerous insurance companies.



directions

From the North:

Take US-53 south to exit 99.
Turn left on Cty Hwy S east.
At roundabout, keep on Cty Hwy S.
Follow signs for Cty Hwy S.
Turn right at Commerce Pkwy.
Take the second left on Cty Hwy I.
Turn right on 156th St.

From the South:

Take I-94 west to exit 70.
Take US-53 north to exit 95A.
Take WI-29 east to exit 79.
Turn right at Seymour Cray Blvd.
Turn left on Cty Hwy I.
Turn left on 156th St.

From the East:

Take WI-29 west to exit 79.
Turn left at Seymour Cray Blvd.
Turn left on Cty Hwy I.
Turn left on 156th St.

From the West:

Take I-94 east to exit 52.
Merge onto US-12/WI-29 east.
Take exit 79 toward Chippewa Falls.
Turn right at Seymour Cray Blvd.
Turn left on Cty Hwy I.
Turn left on 156th St.

Patient Testimonials

"One of my favorite things to do at Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center is to sit in the common area and write letters to friends and family. I enjoy sitting by the large windows that let in sunshine and light up the room. I also love the caring staff at Wissota Health because they are always willing to help me. My portable ventilator gives me the freedom to travel in and out of the building and participate in the many outings. It is especially nice in the summer when I can go sit in the garden. Wissota Health provides excellent care and is an outstanding place to live."

Nancy Larson

Patient of the Ventilator Community Since 2000 (pictured on the left)

"The staff at Wissota Health truly care about the residents and it is a great place to live. I love the independence that my electric wheelchair and portable ventilator provide me because I am able to go out in the community and enjoy the activities. I also like playing games and using the many paths outside that go through the garden and around the building. Additionally, my speaking valve allows me to visit with staff, visitors, and other residents. Wissota Health has friendly, helpful, and caring staff members, and I would definitely recommend it to others."

Blake Weghorn

Patient of the Ventilator Community Since 1987 (pictured on the right)



contact us

Admission Referrals

Learn how your patients can become a part of our community and begin receiving quality care.

Contact us today to schedule a tour or refer a patient:

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and Community Affairs
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snorth@wissotahealth.com

Visit our website:

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New technology helps Star Lake man walk again

For THE HERALD

As Mike Olson walked away from Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center on Nov. 24 a wave goodbye signified an extraordinary accomplishment for him. At 45, Mike had completed a momentous step on his road to recovery following the diagnosis of Guillain-Barre five months earlier.

Guillain-Barre is a very rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves causing weakness and numbness in the extremities, sometimes even paralyzing the whole body.

Olson's story begins on June 13 when a seemingly ordinary day changed everything in an instant.

"I woke up with tingling in my hands and didn't think much about it. The next day, it was hard for me to walk; my feet were tingling and I fell three times. I knew that something was wrong. So, I drove myself down to the local clinic where they transferred me to St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. The physicians first suspected Lyme's disease, but within a week I was completely paralyzed," said Olson, of Star Lake.

Although Olson doesn't recall much of his days at the hospital, he does recall the tremendous amount of pain and round-the-clock morphine with no relief.

The increasing muscular paralysis temporarily affected his chest muscles causing shortness of breath. Suffering from respiratory failure, Olson was moved to the ICU and required a tracheostomy for long-term mechanical ventilation.

Olson was waging the battle of his life.

Even though he still manifested the same symptoms, gradually his pain was controlled. After two months in the hospital, he was discharged to Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center. Here, Olson's long journey to recovery began, with intense physical and occupational therapy and skilled nursing and ventilator care.

Being robbed of his physical abilities, Olson had to relearn what so many people undoubtedly take for granted, such as walking; balancing; having full mobility of our limbs; and being able to dress, shower and feed themselves. Looking back, he recalls lying in bed, not being able to move, heavily medicated, and hooked up to machines and a ventilator.

Olson said, "I remember thinking and wondering if I would ever be able to walk again."

Throughout the Chippewa Valley, various strategies to advance technology and provide effective safe patient handling have been executed. Transitions Rehabilitation, the therapy unit at Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center, recently installed the Guldmann GH2 Ceiling Hoist.

"The GH2 is a track mounted ceiling lift that has allowed our therapists to stand and walk patients sooner, thereby decreasing length of stay and improving quality of life for the patient. The lift provides the sense of security necessary to improve balance and walking quality," said Louis Alix, Regional Rehabilitation Director.

The lift is featured at only one other skilled nursing facility in the Chippewa Valley, Wissota Health's affiliate Dove Healthcare - South in Eau Claire.

After a seemingly difficult day of therapy, Mike was shown a picture of the GH2 ceiling lift.

"The GH2 ceiling lift has allowed stroke, paralysis, spinal cord injury and non-weight bearing or limited weight bearing patients the opportunity to experience walking again. It allows the patient to gain a feeling of independence because when the pull of gravity is eliminated, there is no worry of falling."

Shannon Tanzer
Physical therapist

Olson said, "I felt hyped-up! I thought, 'Wow that's gonna be me again. I'm gonna be walking again!' It just really boosted my whole outlook; my whole morale."

Olson's Physical Therapist Shannon Tanzer said, "The GH2 ceiling lift has allowed stroke, paralysis, spinal cord injury and non-weight bearing or limited weight bearing patients the opportunity to experience walking again. It allows the patient to gain a feeling of independence because when the pull of gravity is eliminated, there is no worry of falling. The ceiling lift also offers an aerobic workout which contributes to building strength and ultimately allows for faster recovery and a quicker return home."

As he reflected on his many achievements in therapy Olson commented, "The highest point of my stay here was getting strapped into the ceiling lift for the first time and then taking my first step. I was walking again! It was really tough and really hard, because I hadn't walked in five months. But it was really neat to take my first step again."

Olson was removed from the ventilator and completely breathing on his own in early November. Upon going home a few weeks later, he was ambulating with the assist of his walker and independent with most activities of daily living.

"The success Mike has



For THE HERALD

Mike Olson demonstrates the GH2 Ceiling Hoist, a track-mounted ceiling lift that allows therapists to stand and walk patients sooner. Mike is now at home and walking.

achieved far out matches any of my expectations," said Dr. Mark Lindsay, Pulmonologist and Medical Director at Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center.

"From being virtually paralyzed three months ago and to now being able to walk is astounding! The multidisciplinary care team at Wissota Health did an outstanding job. Although some patients with Guillain-Barre have some persistent symptoms, based on Mike's tremendous progress to date, he has an excellent long-term prognosis."

When asked what helped him the most during his recuperation, Olson said, "The one thing that really stands out is all the staff here at Wissota Health have a great sense of humor. The nursing staff and therapy staff were always playfully teasing and giving me a lot of 'guff' and this helped me to maintain an upbeat, optimistic frame of mind, even on my bad days."

"My advice to any person facing a life changing illness is to make the best of each day and don't give up; you can't give up. Know that there are people out there that care," Olson said.