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## Parkview Samaritan adds blood products to Rochester, Ind.-based aircraft

By: Lynn Chupp, RN, Parkview Samaritan

The Samaritan aircraft based in Rochester, Ind., now has the ability to administer blood products in the pre-hospital setting. This addition of blood products was implemented September 2016. Patients that fit the criteria of a potentially life-threatening illness or injury can now be transfused much earlier as we service an area in mostly rural locations with in-flight times varying depending on the distance to the closest specialty center. This treatment will be advantageous for patients that have been involved in a serious accident involving significant injury, blood loss, and showing signs of hypovolemic shock secondary to the traumatic injuries.



Hemorrhage is the leading cause of death in trauma victims, therefore having the ability to administer early transfusions of red blood cells and plasma will impact the patient's survival rate. Fluid resuscitation for pre-hospital trauma patients has evolved in the past several years from exclusively administering crystalloid fluid, which simply replaces lost volume with limited other benefits. Packed Red Blood Cells and Fresh Frozen Plasma can carry oxygen and clotting factors that assist with decreasing the amount of hemorrhage and complications. Having the ability to emergently transfuse blood products to hypotensive traumatic patients will allow us to provide the necessary benefits of decreasing pre-hospital mortality.

The most effective way of treating significant blood loss in the pre-hospital setting is with early blood administration. Blood carries oxygen that is vital to major organs including the brain, and as a result gives the best scenario for survival. When this blood is lost, the patient's ability to continue to transport the necessary amount of oxygen to vital organs is significantly diminished. The critically injured patient may already be in compromise and having this ability to administer blood and blood products will greatly benefit the patients who fit the criteria for blood transfusion.



Over the past few years, Parkview Samaritan has made great strides in improving the outcomes of the patients we transport. The improvement of the airway management and ventilation with addition of the new ventilators was our first step.

We then completed research to find inline fluid warmers and adjuncts that are utilized to maintain and increase body temperature during transport for our critically ill and injured patients, especially during the winter months.

The addition of blood and plasma at our Rochester base will align them with our Fort Wayne based aircraft and Mobile Intensive Care Unit in the ability to provide transfusions earlier in the patient's care. The ability to keep a person oxygenated, warmed, and prevent hypotension through warmed blood and fluid administration will greatly decrease complications found often in the later stages of trauma and illness that have negative effects on their outcome and survival.

#### Summary

There is a great benefit in the pre-hospital environment to initiate early blood product transfusions to those patients experiencing signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock. This process could effectively improve the patient's prognosis while in the hospital setting and thereafter in rehabilitation. This is a welcomed service and a great opportunity to better serve our community as healthcare providers to those in need. Parkview Samaritan continues to be dedicated to providing the best possible care for the patients that you entrust with us. Thank you for your partnerships!

## Samaritan Pilot Biography

### Brad Wilson

After being raised in Fort Wayne, IN, and graduating from high school, Brad joined the Army and became part of the Army Airborne Infantry Unit. He received his fixed wing flight training in Fort Wayne and helicopter training in Indianapolis and Chicago. Brad has been a pilot for 27 years with the first nine years flying power line, pipeline, and railroad patrols. He also completed charter flights and tours in the Chicago area. Brad then became the Chief Flight Instructor for Sun-Aero Helicopters in Lansing, IL before flying for NBC News. The last 18 years of his career has been as an EMS helicopter pilot. He joined the Parkview Samaritan Flight Team in 2002 and has been the Senior Lead Pilot since 2012. Brad and his wife Tracy have three daughters: Ashley, Kristen, and Emily. When not flying helicopters, Brad enjoys riding motorcycles with family and friends.



## Samaritan Flight Paramedic Biography

### Mike Brown, EMT-P

Mike first began his emergency services career in 1995 as a volunteer firefighter, became an EMT in 1997, and finally a Paramedic in 2001. He spent his days as a full time paramedic until joining the Fort Wayne Fire Department in 2004. He is currently their District Chief of EMS. Mike joined our Samaritan team in a part time position with our Mobile Intensive Care Unit in 2010 and is cross-trained as a Flight Paramedic. Along with these positions, Mike serves as a paramedic with the Fort Wayne Police Department Emergency Services Team.



Mike and his wife Jennifer are currently raising their golden retriever. When he has spare time, he is an avid SCUBA diver and enjoys exploring shipwrecks in the Great Lakes.

