



# INCREASING OUR SCOPE

## Now offering bronchoscopy procedures in Camden

**W**hen listening to your chest with a stethoscope or looking at chest scans is not enough to diagnose breathing problems, your doctor might need to perform a bronchoscopy. The procedure uses a thin scope to look inside your throat, larynx, trachea and lower airways for problems.

“We do bronchoscopies for many reasons,” says Kevin M. Fussell, M.D., board-certified pulmonologist, Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Pulmonary Medicine, a strategic affiliate of the Health System. “We perform the procedure if a patient with pneumonia is not improving to make sure

we’re not missing strange organisms. We also use it for airway inspections and foreign body aspirations, like when someone swallows a tooth cap and it gets lodged in the airway.”

Previously, patients had to travel to the Brunswick Campus for the procedure, but not anymore. In early 2016, the Health System added a flexible bronchoscope to the Camden Campus.

“The procedure is typically only available at larger centers or centers with pulmonary physicians,” says C. David Sudduth, M.D., board-certified pulmonologist, Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Pulmonary Medicine. “We’re fortunate to now have the technology in Camden so patients no longer have to drive to Brunswick in most cases.”

The outpatient procedure is relatively simple. Patients are sedated and a local anesthetic is applied, so they do not feel anything. The entire process takes only a couple hours.

“Patients usually wake up asking when we’re going to get started, and we say we just finished,” Dr. Fussell says. “Most of the time they are a bit groggy afterward, but have no other indications we’ve performed the bronchoscopy.” •

**BREATHE EASY**  
To find a pulmonary physician, call  
**855-ASK-SGHS**  
**(855-275-7447).**



Kevin M. Fussell, M.D.



C. David Sudduth, M.D.

Top Photo by ThinkStock