

GREEN BAY + HEALTHCARE PROFILES



William S. Bodemer, MD, is a board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic spine surgeon who specializes in the treatment of degenerative and traumatic disorders of the entire spine. He performs many different procedures including:

- Cervical and lumbar microdiscectomy for disc herniation.
- Cervical and lumbar decompression and fusion using both anterior and lateral approaches.
- Vertebroplasty for spinal fractures resulting from osteoporosis.
- Surgical placement of spinal cord stimulators.
- Motion preservation utilizing artificial disc replacements.

Back Story

With care, compassion, and expertise in new, minimally invasive procedures, spine surgeon William S. Bodemer, MD, rewrites the narrative for patients living with intractable neck and back pain.

If you've ever experienced it, then you know it all too well: There is no pain quite like that of the neck and back.

"By the time most of my patients come to me, they have tried everything else—physical therapy, chiropractic adjustments, massage therapy, medications, injections—but nothing has worked permanently. They're ready to get their lives back, and there's nothing I want more than to help them," says William S. Bodemer, MD, a renowned spine surgeon at NeuroSpine Center of Wisconsin, a Midwest leader in spine care.

A Heritage of Healing

Dr. Bodemer grew up in Wausau. He knew from childhood that he was destined for a career in medicine. "My father was a physician, and he passed on to me a fascination with the human body," he says. "I chose orthopedic surgery because it gives me the opportunity to work with my hands to solve complex problems involving the most awe-inspiring 'machine' in the world: the human body. By far the most important reason is because it's an honor and privilege to help people be functional and free from pain. That's really all I've ever wanted to do."

After starting his training in orthopedic

surgery, Dr. Bodemer found himself drawn to a spinal surgery specialty. The majority of patients living with neck and spinal pain may never need surgery; nonsurgical treatments—or even simple lifestyle changes—often help. The pain may even resolve naturally over time. But for those whose pain endures and worsens, it's important to seek help.

"When there is a structural issue, such as spinal stenosis or instability that places pressure on a nerve, the functional integrity of the back is no longer intact, and the pain often cannot be relieved without surgery," says Dr. Bodemer. "We are the end of the line—and in these situations, the beginning of relief."

Often, patients fear spinal surgery, but they needn't, says Dr. Bodemer. Most procedures can be performed through new, state-of-the-art, minimally invasive techniques that require only tiny incisions. "Many of my patients who have endured terrible, debilitating pain wake up from surgery and are thrilled to be pain-free for the first time in years," he says. "This, in a nutshell, is why I do what I do."



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Branching Out

When he's not helping his spine surgery patients, Dr. Bodemer is exploring new ways to help people live healthy, happy lives. He is in the process of opening BrightStar Care of Oshkosh and Fond du Lac, a franchise of a nationally recognized home healthcare business. "This is the 'Cadillac' of

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home healthcare companies," says Dr. Bodemer. "BrightStar Care professional care teams, each led by a registered nurse, deliver quality, compassionate, personal care to people who want to remain in their homes. This company's ethos of stellar service is aligned with my own; I'm thrilled to be on board."