



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

**Date:** April 5, 2023

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### **Southwest Health System Announces Relocation of SMG Park Street and the Discontinuation of Interventional Spine Services**

**Cortez, CO – (April 5, 2023)** – After careful consideration, Southwest Health System (SHS) has announced the planned relocation of Southwest Medical Group (SMG) Park Street (Internal Medicine), and the discontinuation of Interventional Spine services. After careful study and consideration, the SHS Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team arrived at these decisions to fully utilize the space in the Medical Office Building (MOB), increase efficiency, and reduce overhead expenses.

“The need for this change is unfortunate, yet the Board has a fiduciary responsibility for the health and well-being of our hospital in order to continue to serve our community,” said Shirley Jones, who chairs the Board of Directors of Southwest Health System.

With changes in the healthcare industry, SHS—like many other rural and community hospitals across the country—is forced to make difficult decisions to continue providing quality care for our community. The decision to relocate SMG Park Street to the Main Campus in the Medical Office Building will be effective May 8, 2023. SMG Interventional Spine services which is currently located within the hospital on the Main Campus is expected to be discontinued during the summer of 2023.

“We did not take this decision lightly,” said David Faulkner, Interim CEO, Southwest Health System. “We sympathize with the patients who will be impacted by these changes and are committed to working with them to ensure that they continue to receive quality care here at SHS, or with providers who can provide the specialized services needed in our region.”

#### Special Notes

- All staff affected by the relocation and closure will have opportunities for reassignment within SHS.
- SMG Park Street patients will begin seeing their providers in the Medical Office Building, on May 8, 2023, at their scheduled appointment time. Patients will receive additional information regarding these changes.
- SHS will work with SMG Interventional Spine patients to ensure a smooth transition of care in accordance with the patients’ needs and care plan.



Since Southwest Health System was formed over 30 years ago, the healthcare industry has experienced a significant shift in payer mixes and reimbursement models for services. This shift has been further compounded by a pandemic and significant increases in expenses. Many rural and community hospitals across the country are faced with the same challenges as Southwest Health System. Southwest Health System Board of Directors and Leadership are committed to fulfilling the Mission of SHS and creating a sustainable future where patients will receive high quality care.

### **About Southwest Health System**

Southwest Health System operates Southwest Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital, and Southwest Medical Group's six clinics providing primary and specialty care services. SHS provides over 50 service lines to the community. SHS is a private, not-for-profit corporation operating under all guidelines and regulations for non-profits and is also governed by a volunteer board. For more information, visit [www.swhealth.org](http://www.swhealth.org).

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### **For Questions please contact:**

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