



April 28, 2022

Subject: Update #2 Regarding Your Cancer Center Services

Dear Valued Patient:

As promised, following are responses to frequently asked questions about our Cancer Center Services.

Who owns the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center?

The Cancer Center has always been owned and operated by the Hospital. The majority of the staff, including the nursing team and the radiation oncologists (Dr. Bryan Goss and Dr. Matt Jackson), are long time employees of CHRISTUS St. Vincent. And, Dr. Andrea Teague and Jennifer Porter, are part of our Medical Oncology team.

What is going on and are mediation efforts underway?

The Hospital has been trying to address numerous contractual disputes with New Mexico Cancer Care Associates' (NMCCA) four full-time physicians, with whom the Hospital has contracted to provide medical oncology services at the Hospital's Cancer Center. Based on our findings of numerous breaches of contract, we notified NMCCA of our intent to terminate our agreements, and requested that they participate with us in mediation, to provide for an orderly transition that would not affect patient care. This past Monday, April 25, NMCCA agreed to participate in mediation. We are encouraged and are working with them to determine next steps for meeting soon, including discussion of the termination date, which has been extended to July 15, 2022.

Will patient care services be available after May 27?

Yes, absolutely. Contrary to what you may have heard, regardless of how the current contractual dispute between the Hospital and NMCCA is resolved, the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Cancer Care Center at 490-A W Zia Road, and all related services, will continue to be open and in full operation.

All services will continue to operate in the Cancer Center including Medical Oncology, Radiation Therapy, Hematology, Chemotherapy, Infusion, Lab, Pharmacy, Palliative Care, Holistic Health and Wellness, Patient Navigation, Social Work, Dietetic/Nutritional support, etc.

Will insurance cover ongoing cancer care?

CSV has arrangements with just about all insurance plans. NMCCA's decision to transition away from its exclusive relationship with the Hospital should not change your coverage as long as you remain a patient of one of the Hospital's employed providers or contracted providers, including NMCCA. At this time, NMCCA providers remain covered by the Hospital's insurance contracts. When NMCCA separates from the Hospital, they will establish separate insurance (payer) arrangements. As we have advised them, if they are interested, we are also willing to work with them to provide a smooth transition that will not disrupt existing patient care or care relationships.

Should you choose to remain with the Hospital's providers, you won't experience any changes in your current coverage. If you choose to follow your NMCCA provider, you will need to check with your insurance plan to verify coverage. You do not have to do anything with regard to your insurance coverage or co-pays at this time.

Will patients be able to access Mayo Clinic services and second opinions?

If you are a patient of a CHRISTUS St. Vincent employed provider or contracted provider, you will continue to have access to all services of CHRISTUS St. Vincent including the Mayo Clinic, Care Coordination, and patient navigation.

Will the Hospital continue to pay NMCCA?

We do not want your cancer care disrupted. Therefore, the Hospital will continue to pay NMCCA providers for seeing patients until such time that they are no longer contracted with the Hospital.

Will the Hospital have Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology providers?

Yes. Dr. Andrea Teague and Jen Porter, NP have been and will continue to provide medical oncology services. Additional, well-qualified medical oncology providers are scheduled to begin as early as May. Once their start dates commence, the Hospital will notify you about the newest additions to our community. Our radiation oncologists, Dr. Bryan Goss and Dr. Matt Jackson, remain employed by CHRISTUS St. Vincent providing radiation services.

Will there be a change in status for other CHRISTUS St. Vincent contracted providers?

No. The Hospital continues to have a successful contracted relationships with HealthFront Emergency Physicians, Northern NM Gastroenterology Associates, NM Heart Institute, Nephrophiles LLC, Santa Fe Radiology, Northern NM Independent Physicians LLC, and others.

Does CHRISTUS St. Vincent still plan to build a new Cancer Center on the Hospital campus?

Yes. We expect to break ground in Fall 2022 for a new state-of-the-art Center. The initiative represents an important and exciting step in the hospital’s continuing mission to serve the growing cancer and hematological care needs of the entire Santa Fe and North Central New Mexico community.

We will continue to keep you informed during and after the transition so that you remain confident in the care that you are receiving. We look forward to seeing you at your next visit. If you have any questions or concerns about your care and ongoing treatment plan, please reach out to Hope Wade, Chief Operating Officer, CHRISTUS St. Vincent at 505-913-5370. Thank you for entrusting us with your care.

With gratitude,



Lillian Montoya
President & CEO
CHRISTUS St. Vincent