



May 7, 2022

Subject: Update #3 Regarding Your Cancer Center Services

Dear Valued Patient:

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

Is there a community meeting to discuss CHRISTUS St. Vincent Cancer Services?

It appears that New Mexico Cancer Care Associates' (NMCCA) four full-time physicians have scheduled a community meeting to discuss the early termination of our contractual arrangement with them. We were not consulted about such a meeting, and were very surprised to learn about it, especially since it is scheduled just a few days before the parties are scheduled to commence mediation.

Do I need to attend the community forum?

No. We have and will continue to send you regular communications about our cancer program. And, after mediation, we will most certainly bring you up to date on next steps for the transition from the NMCCA contractual relationship.

CHRISTUS St. Vincent will not be participating in a community forum that precedes mediation so that we can honor the intent and spirit of this dispute resolution process. The results of mediation will be communicated to our patients and community, as will next steps for transition.

Are mediation efforts underway?

Almost. Both NMCCA and CHRISTUS St. Vincent have agreed to mediation dates during the week of May 23. Efforts to conduct a community forum just before mediation are disingenuous and disrespectful to the parties and are unnecessarily harmful to the care of our cancer patients.

The intent of mediation is to chart a course forward for separation of the parties. NMCCA's efforts to instill fear in what should be a thoughtful and respectful process will only impede meaningful and respectful dialogue at the mediation table.

What is going on and why do I keep receiving updates?

Our records indicate that you have or are receiving cancer treatment or prevention services in the past two years. We want to be sure that you and your family are aware of our efforts to ensure seamless cancer care for you as we transition from our relationship with NMCCA.

Why are NMCCA and CHRISTUS St. Vincent no longer going to partner on cancer care?

NMCCA had been a good partner for many years, providing good cancer care to the community, and were always independent practitioners. NMCCA made a decision nearly year ago to conclude their exclusive relationship with CHRISTUS St. Vincent, a non-profit healthcare system. They chose to instead launch a start-up private venture called Nexus Health LLC and have been directing their time and resources to that future, including promoting their services to other health systems because their preference is for full control of a cancer program and other somewhat related services. Of course, we couldn't support that new direction as fully integrated cancer care is what our community needs and expects. Even after repeated good faith attempts to agree on new working arrangements, NMCCA was determined to set a separate course for themselves.

We regretfully accepted their decision to move on and had no option but to plan for the future of our cancer program and our patients. We subsequently discovered numerous contractual breaches which brought to light the course they had planned to pursue long ago. Due to their failure to provide services they agreed to provide, have given them an early termination notice for a contract that was already near its end.

Mediation will allow both parties to discuss the contract breaches and determine next steps, including discussion of the contract termination date, which has been extended to July 15, 2022.

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. The details to ensure this occurs will be discussed at mediation.

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 this month. 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.

Can I still receive services at the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center?

Yes, absolutely. Regardless of how the current contractual dispute between the Hospital and NMCCA is resolved, the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Cancer Care Center, 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.

Am I still 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. Within New Mexico, the relationship with the Mayo Clinic Care Network is exclusive to CHRISTUS St. Vincent.

As promised, 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, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Chief Operating Officer, at 505-913-5370 or email CancerServices@stvin.org anytime. Thank you for entrusting us with your care.

With gratitude,



Lillian Montoya
President & CEO
CHRISTUS St. Vincent