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NEWS RELEASE

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Community Hospital's Grand Valley Oncology Announces Affiliation with Huntsman Cancer Institute

Mesa County, CO--- Officials from Community Hospital, in alliance with Salt Lake City-based health care affiliate University of Utah Health Care, today announced a new extension to their affiliation; one that will now exist between Community Hospital's Grand Valley Oncology and Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). This innovative model brings new opportunities, expanded resources, and specialized care to cancer patients in western Colorado.

Community Hospital is both Joint Commission and American Osteopathic Association accredited – the only hospital with this dual accreditation in the western United States, and (HCI) is one of the top academic cancer research institutions in the country. The new alliance builds on an existing nearly two-year affiliation and collaboration between Community Hospital and University of Utah Health Care.

This integrated approach will offer patients additional access to a full range of regional and university-based resources, including the following:

- The same world-class protocols and standards that are provided at HCI
- Coordinated treatment plans providing care integration with HCI's multidisciplinary team of physicians and specialists
- Designated patient navigators to seamlessly coordinate care for patients referred to HCI for a higher level of treatment
- Physician collaboration and informational consultations regarding oncology diagnoses and treatments through telecommunication with HCI specialists
- Virtual second opinions and consultation in real time via digital teleconferencing technologies
- Expanded access to advanced clinical trials for qualifying cancer patients
- Ongoing continuing education for Grand Valley Oncology physicians and staff

HCI was recently recognized as a National Cancer Institute –Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, the highest designation possible. It is the only cancer center to be designated by the National Cancer Institute in the five-state Intermountain West region.

“Inherent in our mission as a teaching hospital is our responsibility to share clinical best practices, research advances, and provide our community partners with the educational resources we’ve developed as a university,” said Dr. John Sweetenham, executive medical director and senior director of clinical affairs at HCI. “We are pleased to participate in the expansion of resources to enhance the health and well-being of area residents.”

This new multidisciplinary team approach provides patients with coordinated & comprehensive treatment plans appropriate to the individual cancer diagnoses. University of Utah Health Care and Community Hospital officials stated they are confident that this alliance will not only position both organizations for success in today’s rapidly evolving health care environment, but provide the best possible access to cancer care for our community.

“The dynamic alliance we have with Huntsman Cancer Institute supports our vision to change the face of cancer care in western Colorado,” said Chris Thomas, President and CEO of Community Hospital. “By combining our resources and expertise with the experience and educational opportunities associated with a large, academic medical center, we are able to create an exceptional model of care specially designed to meet the unique needs within our community,” added Thomas.

In addition to upholding the most advanced standards and protocols, Community Hospital and University of Utah Health Care share a deep-rooted commitment to cultivate the patient experience through compassionate, personalized care.

“Having aligned organizational values and philosophies that extend above and beyond the clinical aspects of care advances the missions of both health care providers,” added Sweetenham. “Historically, many breakthroughs in cancer research and treatment have happened through collaboration, and we believe Community Hospital’s Grand Valley Oncology is poised to build upon that legacy.”

Both organizations emphasize the affiliation does not change ownership, local control and governance, or restrict patient choice in providers.

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