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News Release

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Community Hospital's Grand Valley Oncology Earns National Accreditation from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons

Mesa County, CO - The Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has granted three-year accreditation to the cancer program at Community Hospital. To earn voluntary CoC accreditation, a cancer program must meet 34 CoC quality care standards, be evaluated every three years through a survey process, and maintain levels of excellence in the delivery of comprehensive patient-centered care.

Because it is a CoC-accredited cancer center, Community Hospital's Grand Valley Oncology takes a multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer as a complex group of diseases that requires consultation among surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, pathologists, and other cancer specialists. This multidisciplinary partnership results in improved patient care.

To help recognize and celebrate the unwavering dedication and hard work of the entire staff at Grand Valley Oncology, a press conference will be held **Tuesday, July 30 at 12:00 p.m. at Grand Valley Oncology, located at 2596 F Road (Patterson).**

"When we joined Community Hospital in 2014, we knew we wanted to build Grand Valley Oncology as the premier cancer center on the Western Slope," said JoAnne Virgilio, DO, Medical Oncologist and Medical Director at Grand Valley Oncology. "This prestigious designation encompasses the culmination of years of hard work and commitment to providing the highest quality cancer care possible and we are extremely proud of this recognition," added Dr. Virgilio.

The CoC Accreditation Program provides the framework for Grand Valley Oncology to continually improve its quality of patient care through various cancer-related programs that focus on the full spectrum of cancer care including prevention, early diagnosis, cancer staging, optimal treatment, rehabilitation, life-long follow-up for recurrent disease, and end-of-life care. When patients receive care at a CoC facility, they also have access to information on clinical trials and new treatments, genetic counseling, and patient centered services including psycho-social support, a patient navigation process, and a survivorship care plan that documents the care each patient receives and seeks to improve cancer survivors' quality of life.

"The staff at Grand Valley Oncology has worked tirelessly to earn this designation. We are extremely proud of the entire team and are honored that we now have people coming from across the region to receive high quality cancer treatment right here in Grand Junction," stated Chris Thomas, President and CEO at Community Hospital.

For more information about Community Hospital's medical and radiation oncology program, please call 970-644-3180 or visit www.GrandValleyOncology.com.

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