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## **News Release**

*Karen Martsolf, MA  
Marketing/Communications  
(970) 644-3490 (o)  
970-778-1249 (c)  
karen.martsolf@gjhosp.org*

### **Community Hospital Offers Rapid Diagnostic Clinic**

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital recently launched a new Rapid Diagnostic Clinic (RDC) to help patients identify the reasons behind breast changes, such as breast cancer, in a matter of days rather than a few weeks. The RDC is located in the breast imaging department at Community Hospital, 2373 G Road, Suite 140.

The RDC will provide patients with an initial assessment, diagnostic testing, which may include imaging and biopsy, as well as a plan for follow-up care or treatment. The patient and their primary care physician will both be notified of the results. Together, the patient and medical care team will determine next steps based on the test results.

“Most breast changes are not breast cancer and patients find great comfort in learning the results in a more timely manner rather than worrying for several days or weeks,” said Courtney Fulton, MD, fellowship trained breast and melanoma surgeon at Community Hospital. “Additionally, when a potential cancer is identified in the mammogram, utilizing the RDC will provide answers more quickly and help patients with cancer get treated sooner,” added Dr. Fulton.

Some indicators of breast cancer may include a new lump in the breast or underarm, thickening or swelling of part of the breast, irritation or dimpling of the breast skin, redness or flaky skin in the nipple area or the breast, pulling in of the nipple or pain in the nipple area, nipple discharge other than breast milk, including blood, any change in size or shape of the breast, pain in any area of the breast. It is important to note that these symptoms can occur with other conditions that are not cancer. If signs or symptoms cause concern, individuals are encouraged to contact their physician right away.

To reduce the risk of breast cancer, individuals should maintain a healthy weight, exercise regularly, don't drink alcohol or limit alcoholic beverages to no more than one per day. Individuals with a family history of breast cancer or inherited changes in BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are encouraged to talk to their doctor about ways to help lower their risk of breast cancer.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a mammogram, please visit [www.YourCommunityHospital.com/BreastCareCenter](http://www.YourCommunityHospital.com/BreastCareCenter) or call Community Hospital's Canyon View Imaging and Lab at (970) 644-3157.

For more information on breast cancer, please visit [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov).

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