

October 20, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Community Hospital Expands Cardiology Coverage

Grand Junction, CO - Community Hospital has made the significant move to improve patient care by providing in-house cardiology coverage Monday through Friday. This in-house cardiology specialty care is in addition to the internal medicine physician hospitalist coverage that is already provided to the patients of Community Hospital.

Western Slope Cardiology, a ten physician group, has contracted with Community Hospital to provide this specialty cardiology coverage. Each weekday a cardiologist will be available for on-site consultation, to provide education and training for Community Hospital staff, to assist the hospital in developing treatment protocols, and to help insure quality cardiology services, including cardiac nuclear medicine and echocardiography.

"In an ongoing effort to provide Community Hospital patients with the best possible quality care and safety, we are pleased to have developed this unique relationship with Western Slope Cardiology," said Chief Medical Officer, Donald Nicolay, M.D. "For patients this means an extra level of safety. Whether patients present with a primary cardiac problem or a cardiac problem develops secondarily to the stress of another illness, patients will be comforted in knowing that cardiac specialty care will be readily available."

Paul Oupadia, M.D., a cardiologist with Western Slope Cardiology said, "Our cardiology group is pleased to support Community Hospital in their endeavor to provide excellence in comprehensive cardiac care to patients of the Grand Valley."

"We have been in the development stages of this agreement with Western Slope Cardiology for several months in an effort to expand our cardiology services and respond to physician requests for improved coverage from consulting physicians," said Community Hospital President and CEO, Chris Thomas. "We are very pleased to be able to improve patient care and deliver on this medical staff request."

The cardiology coverage agreement started October 1, 2009 and will continue indefinitely.

###