

# More than a new look

DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

By now you have probably seen the new signs for Gunnison Valley Health at the hospital, the senior living community and other locations around the Valley. Soon you will also see the new logo on ambulances and senior transportation vans. We wanted you to know that a majority of the money related to this change is being spent with local businesses; because like most of you, buying local is a priority for us.

Our look is changing because for months we've been hearing that many residents are unaware of all the services we have available. In response, we're using one name to tie things closer together and we're increasing efforts to communicate with you. We want to make it easier to find the resources you need to keep you and your family healthy. Today we're highlighting key services available at Gunnison Valley Hospital and over the next few weeks we'll be sharing more.

Over 50 local and visiting physicians and physician assistants serve on the hospital medical staff providing care across a broad spectrum of specialties. Services range from family medicine to general surgery, from audiology to sleep studies, from neurology to oncology and from orthopedics to obstetrics. Care is provided overnight in the hospital, in day surgery units, at the nursing home and in physician offices.

Our team of board certified orthopedic surgeons, nurses and surgical techs are among the most respected on the Western slope. It might surprise you to know that we handle over 300 cases of unexpected and planned orthopedic surgeries a year, including complicated hand reconstruction and joint replacement. Overall, physicians complete 900 surgical cases annually and recovering patients are supported by certified physical and occupational therapists with rehabilitation programs in several locations throughout the Valley.

No matter how careful we are accidents happen, and when they do our emergency department responds with ambulance transport and treatment for many medical and traumatic events. Our Emergency Medical Service has been ranked #1 in Colorado, twice in the last seven years and Gunnison Valley Hospital is state certified as a Level IV Trauma Center. We're skilled at stabilizing critical patients, and we know what cases to treat here and what needs to be sent out to level III and II trauma centers in other communities.

Yet many of the hospital services you need can be handled at home. Each year two full time obstetricians and three of the community's family medicine physicians who deliver babies bring just over 160 new lives into our community. They are supported by fifteen dedicated maternity nurses who love helping parents prepare for and experience the miracle of child birth.

Altogether, Gunnison Valley Health represents 320 employees, volunteers, and physicians who use their skills and training in over 30 different areas of healthcare. Next week we'll feature the caregivers at the Senior Living Community and share another example of why what's going on at Gunnison Valley Health is more than just a new look.

Warm regards,

Betsy Bair  
Interim CEO

