

For Immediate Release

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Partnerships Bring New Services to St. Vincent Hospital

LEADVILLE, COLO. (October 28, 2018)

Inpatient hospice care, echocardiograms and stress echocardiogram (stress echo) are new services at St. Vincent Hospital.

Stress Echo

By teaming up with Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center (HRRMC), Lisa Zwerdlinger, MD, and cardiologist Peter Lemis, MD, stress echo tests are officially underway at St. Vincent Hospital.

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart. It is usually preformed when a better understanding of the anatomy of the heart is needed. A stress echo involves an ultrasound of the heart before and after exercise. The test is performed by a technician from HRRMC, overseen by Dr. Zwerdlinger and the results are read by Dr. Lemis.

Echocardiograms and stress echos are ordered by medical providers when they need to diagnose or determine a patient's risk for a structural problem with the heart, or heart attack and have historically been performed at hospitals outside of Lake County. Under the new partnership, after the provider's order is received, the HRRMC radiology department will schedule the test at St. Vincent Hospital for patients that request a Leadville appointment.

St. Vincent Hospital Chief of Medical Staff, Lisa Zwerdlinger, MD, commented, "We are all working to have better opportunities for our local patients to receive the care they need. I think our community will see more and more partnerships of this nature in the future."

Inpatient Hospice

A partnership with Premier Home Health and Hospice of Chaffee County has brought inpatient hospice care to St. Vincent Hospital. You may think of hospice care as happening in the home. But there are circumstances when a person in home hospice care will be admitted for inpatient (hospital) hospice care. Thanks to this partnership, St. Vincent provides the hospital facility and trained hospice nurses from Premier Home Health and Hospice provide the care.

Hospital CEO, Gary Campbell stated that, "When our community deals with end-of-life scenarios we do our part to help lessen their burden."

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Premier Home Care has been serving the Home Health Care needs of the Arkansas River Valley and surrounding areas in central Colorado since 2005. We are a small locally owned and operated health care organization. We believe that being *locally and privately owned* allows us to touch the lives of our clients creatively and in ways that go beyond main stream health care services. We provide in home medical care to clients across the age span from infants all the way to geriatrics. Our staff members hold themselves to a high standard of excellence as we strive to create reliable and professional relationships.