



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAMILY HEALTH WEST Announces Participation in Colorado ALTO Project with Aim of Reducing Opioid Administration in Emergency Department

Fruita, CO – Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center (CCHMC), a service of Family Health West, is proud to announce they have joined the Colorado ALTO Project (alternatives to opioids), a statewide initiative that allows Colorado Emergency Departments to become part of the solution in tackling the opioid epidemic. Through a partnership with Colorado Hospital Association, CCHMC now has the ability to treat pain in ways that are proven to be effective without unnecessarily exposing patients to risks associated with highly addictive medications like opioids. Minimizing patients' initial exposure to opioid medications is a crucial step in every hospital's role to fight the opioid epidemic, and CCHMC believes it is important to implement this proven initiative because of the positive impact it can have on the community.

The Emergency Department at CCHMC is not changing to be "opioid free". There are patients and conditions that are appropriate to treat with opioids and do offer them if alternative therapies fail. The Emergency Department providers and staff will continue to accommodate all patients' needs.

Colorado is at the forefront of the nation's opioid epidemic with the 12th highest rate of prescription opioid misuse and abuse out of all 50 states. Colorado hospitals, particularly the Emergency Departments, are in a strong position to integrate new and more effective pain management treatments that are tailored to each patient's unique pain experience.

In January 2018, Colorado Hospital Association announced the results of the Colorado Opioid Safety Pilot initiated in 10 Emergency Departments across the state in 2017. During the six-month pilot, the participating facilities reduced the administration of opioids by an average of 36 percent and increased the usage of ALTOs by 31 percent. Family Health West is very pleased to be joining this effort to reduce the opioid epidemic in Colorado.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dr. Korrey Klein, Family Health West Chief Medical Officer
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About Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center
a service provided by Family Health West

Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center is a full-service Critical Access Hospital designed to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community. The non-profit hospital is the only Medicare swing bed facility in the Grand Valley, which can immediately switch a hospital room from acute care status to skilled care status. Being a designated Critical Access Hospital with 24/7 Level IV Trauma and emergency care, allows Colorado Canyons provide a more focused level of care to patients through both inpatient and outpatient services. Located in the heart of Fruita, Family Health West has been serving the healthcare needs of the Lower Valley since 1946 by additionally offering surgical services; comprehensive imaging; arthritis care; infusion services; neurosurgery; podiatry; orthopedics and sports medicine; outpatient procedures; pain management; integrative rehabilitation; physical, speech and occupational therapies for adults and pediatrics; wound healing; access clinic; assisted and secure assisted living. For more information on services, please call (970) 858-3900 or visit www.fhw.org.