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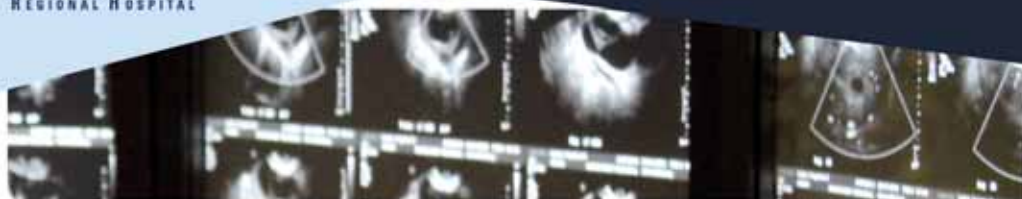
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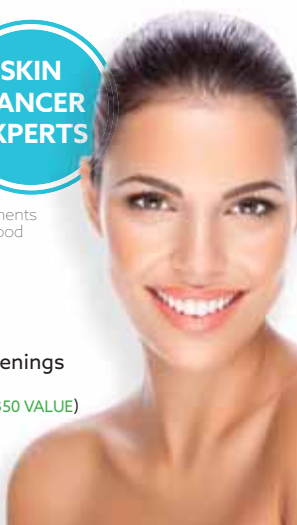
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New treatment options for our local community: Ridgecrest Regional Hospital announces UC Davis Cancer Care Network affiliation



*Courtesy of Ridgecrest
Regional Hospital*

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital is proud to announce its affiliation with the UC Davis Cancer Care Network. The UC Davis Cancer Care Network provides leadership in transformative cancer care, research, and education for diverse communities of Northern and Central California.

The affiliation agreement comes as a result of the hospital's commitment to take a leadership role in responding to the health needs of the community both in the hospital and outside the hospital. Adding services where there are access problems for our community is a high priority of the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

board of directors and leadership team.

Hospital CEO Jim Suver announced in a recent strategic planning session, "Our vision for Ridgecrest Regional Hospital over the next five years is to continue to become an integrated delivery system with a superior acute care facility, pre and post acute-care facilities and services, and multi-specialty medical clinics affiliated with the hospital."

In 2016, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital engaged the services of Act Too Consulting to conduct its periodic Community Health Needs Assessment. The public survey indicated that cancer and cancer treatment are viewed as the 3rd most significant health issue and service gap for the community. While some services are available locally, comments obtained by the survey referred

to the need for more and higher quality services in the area.

Plans are underway to recruit an oncologist to join the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital team. Additional oncology care back-up will come from the UC Davis team. The vision for the affiliation will begin with medical oncology services provided in Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's Outpatient Pavilion and ultimately, the plan is to build a cancer center and add radiation oncology services.

“Keeping top notch cancer treatment in Ridgecrest, without driving out of town, is our ultimate goal,” Mr. Suver emphasized, “It is an honor to be affiliated with the UC Davis Cancer Care Network. We believe the affiliation will enhance our capabilities, while lending advanced knowledge and skill to cancer diagnostics and follow-up for the residents of our community.”

UC Davis Cancer Care Network Benefits

Clinical Trials

UC Davis offers more than 150 clinical trials of the next generation of cancer treatments.

Ridgecrest patients will now have easier access to UC Davis clinical trials through this collaboration. Clinical trials often provide the best hope for people with advanced or complex cancers. The affiliation will also provide Ridgecrest Regional Hospital the ability to participate in the Cancer Care Network tumor boards.

Tumor Board

A tumor board consists of a multidisciplinary team of medical providers. They meet periodically to review in detail, complex patient cases to discuss options for the patient and a treatment planning approach. The affiliation with UC Davis Cancer Care Network will offer Ridgecrest Regional Hospital the ability to participate in the Cancer Care Network tumor boards. ♦



Ridgecrest Regional Hospital breaks ground for psychiatric services at new Ridgecrest Crisis Stabilization Unit



Courtesy of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital began site preparation on the future home of the new Ridgecrest Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) this week. The CSU is a partnership developed between Ridgecrest Regional Hospital (RRH) and Kern County Mental Health Department (KCMH). Located close to and built on land owned by the hospital, this partnership will enable KCMH and RRH to serve the whole person by addressing behavioral health care and medical care in close collaboration.

Funded by a grant from the California Health Facilities Fi-

nancing Authority (CHFFA), the new, 12-bed CSU will provide services to both adults and minors, for up to eight adults and four minors. Staffing and operations of the new unit will fall under direction of KCMH.

Services at the CSU will include crisis assessment and evaluation for behavioral health and substance use dis-





Photo Courtesy of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

orders, evidence-based brief crisis interventions, coordination of admissions to inpatient facilities when necessary, coordination of care with individual's support systems and community providers, referrals and linkage to community resources, and coordination of medical care support when necessary through Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

The new Ridgecrest CSU will not only increase access to crisis services, but also reduce transports to the Bakersfield CSU (with up two hours travel time one way), reduce the number of individuals in crisis

at the RRRH Emergency Department, reduce the amount of time that law enforcement remains involved in a mental health crisis, and enhance the existing outpatient behavioral services that exist in our isolated area of Kern County.

RRH estimated that more than 300 patients seen in the Emergency Department between 2014-2015 for a mental health or substance use disorder could have been referred to a crisis stabilization unit if those local services existed. Our best estimate is that services will be available sometime in the fall of 2017.❖



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