



News Release

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For Immediate Release

SKYLINE HOSPITAL EXPANDS ITS TRANSITIONAL CARE PROGRAM – BENEFITING GORGE RESIDENTS

WHITE SALMON, Wash. – In support of an overall plan to meet the needs of the community today and in the future, Skyline Hospital recently expanded its Transitional Care Program.

“Transitional Care is a high quality, evidence-based program for patients who are well enough to leave a traditional hospital setting but still have nursing, therapy, or respiratory needs that may not be optimally met in their homes or long term care. Some examples of these needs would include frequent intravenous medications, wound care, breathing treatments, or intensive physical, occupational, or speech therapy,” said Skyline Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Stefanie Boen, R.N.

Skyline has partnered with Allevant Solutions, a joint venture of Mayo Clinic and Select Medical, to help develop its Transitional Care program. Modeled on the Mayo Clinic’s successful efforts in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and created by Mayo Clinic pulmonologist and Allevant Medical Director, Mark Lindsay, M.D., the program is designed to provide access to high quality post-acute services to rural America, the most persistently underserved region in modern health care.

“While most patients with post-acute needs receive their care in a long-term care environment, these facilities are often not equipped with the resources needed to provide optimal post-acute care for more complex patients,” said Dr. Lindsay. “As a result, patients and families in many rural areas have to either settle for less-than-ideal settings or travel great distances. Skyline has the staff, the facilities, and the commitment to provide an excellent, high-quality option for this type of care. We are excited to join Skyline on this journey to offer another post-acute care choice to residents of the Gorge.”

Over the past year the Skyline staff have been implementing new processes and participating in Allevant clinical education. Most patients receiving this care at Skyline will be



covered by the Medicare SNF (Swing Bed) reimbursement program, although other insurers may participate as well.

"As the nation's population ages, there will be an increasing need for facilities with the expertise and capability to care for patients with medically complex conditions, especially in our rural communities. By enhancing our ability to provide this care, we are not only meeting the post-acute care needs of our current and future patients, but also providing increased stability and excellent employment opportunities for our community as a whole," continued Boen.

Robb Kimmes, CEO of Skyline added, "In addition to local patients being able to return to the Gorge after receiving care at larger facilities in the Portland/Vancouver Metro areas, we anticipate our program will also attract patients from other communities who prefer to receive their post-acute care at Skyline due to our proven record of quality, our team model of care, and the conveniences offered by our small town setting. Because we have full choice over how many transitional care patients to admit at any given time, we will be able to guarantee the program will not limit our ability to take care of the day-to-day needs of our local patients, yet still take full advantage of the capacity of our facility and staff. This is a win for our patients, our employees and our community."

To learn more about the Transitional Care Program at Skyline Hospital, call 509-637-2980 or visit skylinehospital.org.

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