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Dearest Members of Our Community,

For 27 years, New Mexico Cancer Care Associates (“NMCCA”) has served Santa Fe as a physician-led, patient-centered, full-service medical oncology practice providing high-quality, up-to-date, and evidence-based care to our patients. We are long-standing, committed members of the Santa Fe community and the surrounding region.

NMCCA had a very successful relationship with CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center (“CSV”) for a decade, but that relationship is soon coming to an end. Unfortunately, we were unable to directly communicate the reasons why we decided to discontinue that relationship until now.

Why did we, NMCCA, decide to end our contracts with CSV and practice independently? Because we believe that, ultimately, it is best for both you and our community. Below are a few of the reasons:

- We believe patients should be able to choose the hospital and physicians that are best for their care. Ending our contractual relationship with CSV will enable us to freely support your choice for where you get your care.
- We believe that the cost of care in Santa Fe is too high. By delivering your care through an independent practice in a private office setting, we can reduce that cost. In addition, we now have the flexibility to work directly with our local insurance providers to find ways to make your care even more affordable.
- We believe that you and your clinical care providers, not hospital administrators, should be responsible for making the important decisions about the resources and care that will be available to you.

To allay any confusion or concerns you may have as patients, we want to reassure you that:

- The transition of our practice will have little or no interruption in your care. Through *December 31, 2022*, we will continue to provide care to you pursuant to our arrangement with CSV. *Beginning January 1, 2023*, we will be available to provide your care through our independent medical practice. You do not have to change doctors, and can continue receiving care and expertise from the care team that knows you and your personal needs.
- We are actively working to secure payor contracts with all available health plans.
- Ending our contractual relationship with CSV does not end our access or your access to resources or caregivers at CSV. NMCCA providers will maintain privileges at CSV, and will continue our long-standing professional relationships with the doctors, nurses, and clinical staff at CSV to ensure you are given the highest quality of cancer care. We will continue to

see admitted patients at CSV, and we will also be able to see patients at Presbyterian Santa Fe Medical Center.

- Expert consultation and second opinions will remain readily available to all NMCCA patients when needed and appropriate, as they are now. NMCCA providers have strong personal and professional relationships with cancer care experts at renowned “Centers of Excellence” around the country, including but not limited to Mayo Clinic, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Johns-Hopkins, Harvard, Baylor, UCLA, and NIH. Through these relationships, NMCCA providers can, do, and will obtain timely, appropriate expert consultation for our patients.
- NMCCA will continue to offer our patients access to clinical trials. We are committed to continuing and expanding our successful research programs, offering access to new and promising treatments and care for our patients.

In order to smoothly transition your care to our independent practice *by January 1, 2023*, we have attached a consent form for medical records release for your signature. You may also request a form for signature when you visit the office or through our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly at 505-216-6643 or visit our website at newmexicocancercare.com or email us at NMCCA-INFO@nmcancercare.com. We are happy to discuss with you our transition to an independent practice or any other questions or concerns.

Our dedication to patient care and research is unwavering. We will continue to fight for you and we will continue to offer the highest quality, coordinated, seamless cancer care and consultation as we embark on this exciting new phase of our practice.

With sincere gratitude,

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