

*Ukiah Valley  
Medical Center*



**Ukiah Valley  
Primary Care  
Medical Group**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 16, 2005

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### **Ukiah Valley Primary Care Medical Group Explores Rural Health Arrangement With Ukiah Valley Medical Center**

Ukiah Valley Primary Care Medical Group (UVPCMG) announced Friday, September 16, that they are exploring the feasibility of entering into an agreement with Ukiah Valley Medical Center (UVMC) to create a hospital-based rural health program according to Darcie Antle, UVPCMG Administrator.

The agreement would merge current UVPCMG operations into the hospital with the potential to add UVPCMG's more than 70 employees to the hospital's more than 500 current employees. The hospital would contract with the medical group's physicians to provide medical services. "Current patients of UVPCMG should expect no changes in the great service we already provide to them," said Antle.

According to UVMC President & CEO Mark E. LaRose, this change will provide better coordination of health care for the community, "This arrangement will make us eligible for a special designation that will allow us to provide our community with much better access to care."

LaRose is speaking of the "Hospital-based Rural Health Clinic Designation," a federal government classification that allows for better reimbursement and more access for community members to see specialists. "Through this special designation we will have a greater opportunity for more enhanced services to our community," said Antle.

According to Antle, improvements to care could include wound care, nutritional counseling, home visits and expanded physical therapy services. "We will also have the ability to deliver care with extended hours through our rural health clinic designation," said Antle.

“We believe this new designation will better help us recruit and retain much needed specialists and primary care physicians as well,” said Antle. “Through this federal designation, we will have a better opportunity to attract physicians to our area.”

“This is a win-win strategy,” said LaRose. “It will provide enhanced coordination of health care services in our region and enable us to recruit even more excellent physicians.”

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Ukiah Valley Primary Care Medical Group was formed in 1995 and is made up of 18 physicians including:

- 5 Pediatricians
- 4 Internists
- 3 Family Practice
- 2 Urologists
- 1 Medical Oncologist
- 1 OB/GYN
- 1 Orthopedic Surgeon
- 1 General Surgeon

The group also employs 11 mid-level practitioners, which include physician assistants and nurse practitioners and 61 other support employees.

UVPCMG is scheduled to move into a new medical office building directly across the street from UVMC’s Family Birth Center in late 2006. “Our dream of creating a medical campus in our community is becoming a reality,” said LaRose. “With UVPCMG in a new medical office building near the hospital, the region will have one central location to help meet all their health care needs.”

According to LaRose, the hospital and medical group are in the process of filing all the required paperwork to move forward with the project, “If everything falls into place as we’re hoping it will, all arrangements should be finalized by January 1, 2006,” he said.

“We are delighted and excited about this opportunity to work with UVMC to provide the very best care to our entire region,” said Antle. “Both UVPCMG and UVMC have wonderful missions to serve our community’s health care needs and by working together we can accomplish that mission with a much higher success rate.”

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*Ukiah Valley Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit, faith-based health system operating in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on the Seventh-day Adventist heritage of Christian health care, Adventist Health is comprised of 20 hospitals with more than 3,100 beds, 18,800 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 16 home care agencies and three joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit [www.uvmc.org](http://www.uvmc.org) or [www.adventisthealth.org](http://www.adventisthealth.org).*

*Ukiah Valley Primary Care Medical Group is a multi-specialty group with 18 physicians in various medical specialties including: Allergy, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Nutrition, OB/GYN, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Physical Therapy, Surgery, and Urology. The group employs more than 70 people and sees approximately 85,000 patient visits each year. For more information, visit [www.uvpcmed.com](http://www.uvpcmed.com).*