

New health services available for Bend-area adults

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

BEND, Ore. — People living in and around the Bend area have additional options for health services with the recent opening of a new Bend Memorial Clinic, P.C. Medicare Clinic and Alpine Physical Therapy center on the main level of Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor Village's new Cliff Lodge, 19800 S. W. Touchmark Way, Bend.

“Providing these services in one location underscores Touchmark's commitment to overall health and wellness,” says Touchmark Executive Vice President Tom Biel. “We're thrilled to work with Bend Memorial Clinic and Alpine Physical Therapy to offer these services to people throughout Deschutes County.”

Because Medicare reimbursement rates for rural areas is significantly less than for urban settings, many Bend-area doctors are no longer able to accept new Medicare-eligible patients. To help address this situation, Touchmark and the Bend Memorial Clinic are working together to provide a community health care clinic to serve Medicare patients throughout Central Oregon.

The new clinic is currently enrolling people covered by Medicare who don't have a primary care provider. Anita Kolisch, MD, a Bend Memorial Clinic primary care physician, is overseeing the clinic, and an additional provider is expected to start in the future. The clinic had been operating in a temporary location over the past several months.

“This exciting new partnership gives us the opportunity to reach out to seniors and helps ensure excellent health care is available to those who often need it the most,” says Bend Memorial Clinic's CEO Marvin J. Lein. “We could not be more pleased with Touchmark's shared vision.”

Dr. Kolisch and her nurse currently are seeing patients three days a week. To set up an appointment, people can call (541) 382-2811. Since the clinic was announced last year, more than 300 people have established with Dr. Kolisch as their primary doctor. The new clinic accepts patients who currently do not have an area primary care physician covered by traditional Medicare, ClearChoice Medicare Advantage or ODS Medicare Advantage health plans.

“Our desire is to be available first to patients who cannot find a primary care physician. Once we are satisfied that this need has been met, we may open the clinic for convenience sake to those who do currently have a primary care physician,” adds Lein.

Alpine expands with second office

Established over a year ago, Alpine Physical Therapy has grown quickly. Physical therapist and co-owner Scott Weber explains the new Touchmark location will focus on improving adult mobility and function, while its other office in Northwest Crossing will continue to provide manual orthopedic care for all ages.

“We will provide physical and occupational therapy services at our new location,” says Weber, adding that a speech therapist as well as a full-time therapist specializing in geriatrics will be added in the future.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but appointments may be scheduled at other times, if necessary. A physician referral is required by Medicare, but some insurance companies don’t require a referral. Information and appointment scheduling are available by calling (541) 382-5500.

The new services are located adjacent to the Touchmark Home Services office, which offers home care and

home health. Administrator Kathryn Hollis-Buchanan says her staff work closely with Dr. Kolisch and the Alpine therapists. "Each of us may serve the same people at different times; and it's helpful to have easy access for consultations."

Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor Village offers resort retirement living and a range of homes and lifestyle options. Phase two, scheduled to be completed this summer, includes the Cliff Lodge and a Terrace Lodge with numerous amenities and services. Touchmark received a Platinum Award from the National Association of Home Builders recognizing the creative design of the phase-one River Lodge. Touchmark Home Services is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

BMC includes over 85 providers representing 16 branches of medicine and 30 service specialties. Begun in 1946, it is now the largest multispecialty group east of the Cascades and functions as a comprehensive referral center for physicians and communities throughout Oregon.

Alpine Physical Therapy is dedicated to creating a relaxing, healing environment and providing quality service through strong relationships and specialized services.

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