**Western Sierra Medical Clinic to open on-site pharmacy, saving patients time and money**

**GRASS VALLEY—**Western Sierra Medical Clinic will add a full-service pharmacy in the Grass Valley facility, offering easier access and often lower-cost prescription medications while saving patients time.

The on-site pharmacy, located near the main lobby and reception area, is scheduled to open Dec. 8. The pharmacy, available to Western Sierra Medical patients, will operate from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Plans are underway to expand soon.

"It's all about convenience, accessibility, and making sure patients get everything they need to improve their health while saving them time," said Western Sierra Medical Clinic Chief Executive Officer Scott McFarland. "We're always looking for new ways to expand services in order to provide one-stop health care."

An on-site pharmacy and pharmacist will help improve the health of patients — and the region, said Dr. Glenn Thiel, Chief Medical Officer of Western Sierra Medical Clinic.

"It will definitely make it easier for patients to fill their prescriptions, because after they leave the health center they could put off going to the drugstore or get sidetracked and forget. Better fill rates lead to better health," Thiel said. "Plus, physicians and the pharmacist are right down the hall if there are any questions about a patient's medication."

Western Sierra Medical Clinic participates in the 340B Drug Pricing Program, a federal program that offers deep discounts for prescription medications to low- and moderate-income patients.

"The 340B program makes a significant difference in the cost, and allows people to get their medications to recover from illnesses," said pharmacist Ann Turner, who will manage the pharmacy and two pharmacy techs for IMG Rx, a company that will oversee the pharmacy.

Turner — a 20-year pharmacist whose career includes national drugstore chains, Kaiser Permanente and the Veterans Administration — is most recently a pharmacist with Sonoma County Indian Health in Santa Rosa.

"I'm looking forward to learning about the community and meeting patients," said Turner, a graduate of the College of Pharmacy at Xavier University in New Orleans. "And I'm excited about opening a new pharmacy."

Western Sierra Medical Clinic officials estimate about 60 percent of patients will use the on-site pharmacy, while the remainder of patients will continue filling prescriptions at drugstores in the region, including CVS, Dokimos, Rite Aid, SaveMart, Spring Hill and Walgreens.

“The pharmacy is all about saving patients time and ensuring that are on the road to better health before they walk out the front door,” McFarland said.

**About Western Sierra Medical Clinic**

Western Sierra Medical Clinic provides comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care in Nevada, Sierra and Yuba counties. Founded in 1975, Western Sierra emphasizes preventive care, education and empowering patients to make informed decisions. Western Sierra provides services for the HMO and private markets, and to low-income and senior citizens. Western Sierra is the largest outpatient health care provider in Nevada County, where a new full-service health clinic meets the growing demands in the community. You can learn more about Western Sierra Medical Clinic at www.wsmcmed.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WesternSierraMedicalClinic.