

WESTERN SIERRA MEDICAL CLINIC TO OPEN URGENT CARE SERVICE, TREAT MINOR INJURIES, ILLNESSES WITHOUT APPOINTMENTS

GRASS VALLEY – Western Sierra Medical Clinic will expand its Urgent Care service on Monday, August 24, providing access to health care providers for non-emergency treatment for minor injuries and illnesses.

The Urgent Care service will offer no-appointment-needed, same-day health care. All people are welcome, regardless of their income level. Most insurance plans will be accepted, including private, Veterans, Medicare and Medi-Cal.

Urgent Care will be available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Western Sierra, 844 Old Tunnel Road in Grass Valley.

“Same-day care is desperately needed in the community, and we wanted to help fill the gap for service,” said Dr. Glenn Thiel, Chief Medical Officer for Western Sierra. “We’re expecting significant demand from patients who don’t have a primary care provider or who cannot get in to see their provider right away.”

Urgent Care will handle common illnesses – such as colds, flu and kidney infections – and minor injuries, including back pain, cuts and sprains.

Patients with life-threatening injuries – such as choking, head injuries, severe chest pains or the inability to see, speak or walk – should go to the emergency room right away.

“The Urgent Care service is a much-needed addition, a complement to health care in the region,” said Michael Heggarty, Nevada County Director of Health and Human Services. “It’s not about replacing primary care providers, but treating patients who need care right away when their provider is not available.”

The Urgent Care service will help fill a void of medical treatment for minor injuries and illnesses, while easing unnecessary visits to local emergency rooms – a caseload and financial burden for hospitals, and an often frustrating experience and pricey option for patients.

Western Sierra’s staff and health care providers will ask every patient at the Urgent Care service if they have an established primary health provider. If so, all information about a patient’s treatment received at the Urgent Care service will be sent to their primary health provider. And, Western Sierra staff will direct patients back to those providers for follow-up treatment.

“It’s just another way we want to partner with the community and fill an obvious need,” said Western Sierra CEO Scott McFarland.

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 center will meet 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