



Salina Regional
Health Center

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Salina Regional Health Center responds to resignation of Orthopedic surgeons

(April 29, 2016) -- Salina Regional Health Center today issued this response to the resignation of orthopedic surgeons of the Orthopaedic Sports Health Clinic of Salina (OSHC).

Salina Regional is committed to the health and wellness of every person throughout North Central Kansas. Every decision we make is guided by that principle, including decisions about orthopedic care, which is the treatment of illnesses and injuries that affect bones and muscles.

To support Salina Regional's daily emergency room services, we have an obligation to provide timely delivery of orthopedic care and ensure on-call availability for every hour of every day. We recently announced the hiring of two full-time orthopedic surgeons to help increase our capabilities and to cover the growing demand for orthopedic services in Saline County and North Central Kansas.

We have numerous affiliations with local and regional physicians, clinics and medical facilities. And for many years, we have had good working relationships with the physicians of OSHC, who provided on-call orthopedic services at Salina Regional. In late February, OSHC physicians informed us they would continue their working relationship with us on the condition we pay them an \$1,800-per-day fee for days they are on call, or more than \$500,000 annually. This would be in addition to the professional fees physicians earn by providing care to patients they see as a result of being on call.

Any income Salina Regional has after paying expenses is reinvested in the community and surrounding area. This has allowed us to maintain an outstanding, award-winning staff and state-of-the-art equipment that benefit our patients. These resources are available at no charge to physicians who make a living charging patients for the services they render. Salina Regional also provides extensive charitable care, funds programs that benefit those in need, and contributes to community improvement projects.

Salina Regional declines to pay OSHC, or any physician group for that matter, this on-call fee because it is an unaffordable expense and an uncommon practice for communities of our size. Additionally, being on call is a requirement of holding medical staff privileges with the ability to admit patients and practice medicine at Salina Regional. This policy has been in place since our founding. Paying for on call physician services ultimately drives up the cost of hospital care, which we actively try to guard against.

OSHC physicians notified us on April 22, 2016, that they will resign their medical staff privileges at Salina Regional effective April 30th. We are sad to see these resignations occur, but understand this is a business decision the physicians believe they must make.

The hospital will have qualified, board-certified orthopedic surgeons on call to continue providing great care to our patients until our two new staff orthopedic surgeons begin their practices.

Quality care is our first priority and orthopedic care at Salina Regional will not suffer because of the resignations of OSHC's physicians.

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