

To the People and Communities served by TMC:

**From
H. Ray Gibbons
Administrator, TMC**

Dear Friends:

One of Teton Medical Center's most important responsibilities in providing hometown quality care is staffing the emergency room, inpatient hospital, and nursing home with a physician or physician's assistant (PA-C) at all times, 24/7. Most of you know that this spring TMC has faced a potential challenge meeting this requirement, due to the departures, at relatively short notice, of two local Great Falls Clinic medical providers.

Time became an important element in my discussions with

the TMC Board of Trustees and the Great Falls Clinic leaders due to the following circumstances:

GFC indicated a desire to decrease its medical staff commitment to cover the TMC emergency room and indicated that this change might take effect potentially as soon as June 1, 2008.

TMC had no Medical Provider Coverage Contract with GFC.

After several meetings, special board meetings, and almost daily dialogue with TMC Board of Trustees and the GFC leaders, we are drafting a new coverage agreement between the two entities, to go into effect June 1,

2008. The highlights of this agreement are as follows:

- Medical provider coverage for TMC emergency room, inpatient hospital and nursing home has been secured for June, July, and August.

- TMC and GFC are entering into a formal contract which ensures 24/7 medical provider coverage for TMC emergency room, inpatient hospital and nursing home for the next three years.

- The Choteau and Fairfield clinics will return to their regular schedules by Sept. 1, 2008.

We look forward to a new chapter in our relationship with the Great Falls Clinic. This will involve new GFC medical providers, approved by our home-



TMC photo

H. Ray Gibbons of Choteau is the TMC administrator.

town staff, joining the TMC medical staff team. A contract for the next three years will provide continuity and stability for the people we serve in the hospital district and the surrounding area.

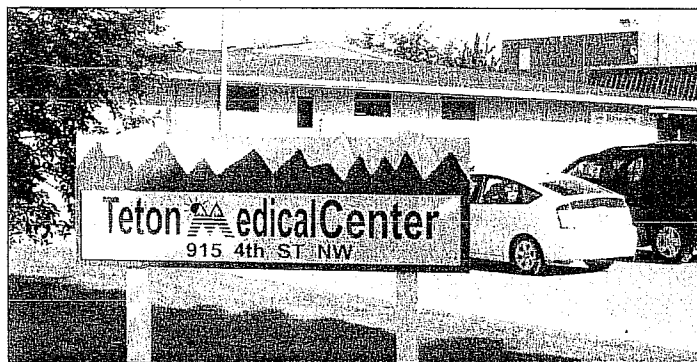
Answers to frequently asked questions about TMC

What services does Teton Medical Center offer?

TMC offers round-the-clock emergency services, physical and occupational therapy, wellness programs, X-rays, lab tests, mammograms, dexascans, hospital beds for sick, injured, or recovering patients, nursing home services, adult day care, adult extended (respite) care, home health care, home helper services, and Peace Hospice care. Our physical therapy services are available in Conrad, Fairfield and Choteau.

What is the connection between TMC and the Choteau/Fairfield Great Falls Clinic (GFC)?

TMC and GFC are different corporations. GFC hires local doctors and physician assistants. GFC leases the building next to Teton Medical Center in Choteau, and they own an office in Fairfield. In both locations they staff and operate doctors' of-



TMC photo

Teton Medical Center offers access to an emergency room 24 hours a day, inpatient and outpatient services, and nursing home services.

fices, where people can make scheduled appointments. Choteau/Fairfield GFC doctors and physician assistants cover most of the TMC emergency room and hospital services in Choteau.

Clients in TMC's hospital and nursing home are often patients of GFC medical professionals. TMC's nursing staff, therefore,

works closely with Choteau/Fairfield GFC doctors and physician assistants to care for TMC residents, in the nursing home, as well as the "acute" and "swing" hospital wings.

What is the relationship between TMC and Moore Medical Clinic?

Moore Medical Clinic is a separate business from TMC,

and has a separate office in downtown Choteau. Moore Medical Clinic's Family Nurse Practitioner Caralynn Moore often works closely with TMC staff, overseeing her patients' care, in the nursing home and "swing" wing of the hospital.

Where do I call to make a doctor's appointment?

If you want to schedule a doctor's appointment, call Great Falls Clinic-Choteau, Great Falls Clinic-Fairfield or Moore Medical Clinic (Choteau).

Whom do I call to schedule a mammogram, dexascan, or a physical therapy appointment?

Teton Medical Center schedules these services directly, so call TMC.

What is the relationship between TMC and the Teton Nursing Home in downtown Choteau?

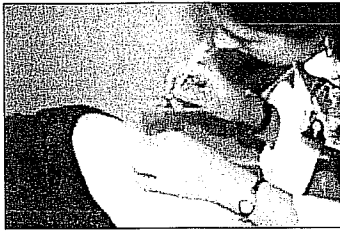
The Teton Nursing Home is a **Please see Back Page**

TMC helps students with nursing degrees

Teton Medical Center offers aid to employees seeking additional education in the medical field. TMC has five certified nursing assistants currently enrolled in the MSU-COT Great Falls Licensed Practical Nurse program.

Using the REACH system for class studies, these CNA students avoided having to travel to Great Falls to complete those required classes. Saving on gas and travel time was a big issue for these employees while staying employed at TMC.

There are two additional employees who will be completing their RN training and education, proceeding to get Montana nursing licenses this year. These two employees have signed "Work Agreements" with Teton Medical Center, and will stay employed with TMC as an RN, as stated in the agreement. This also



Nursing positions are in high demand in the Montana health-care industry.

is TMC's way of investing in our staff to provide quality care to our community. By the end of 2008 we will welcome Becky Nichter, RN. and Julie Peterson, RN. to our nursing staff.

Teton Medical Center Foundation is also supporting our staff and nursing educational needs by awarding a \$3,000 Boe Brothers grant to staff or affiliates pursuing continuing education or training in a position in the medical field. Applications are available in February each year

and are to be submitted by May 15. The awards are presented to the qualified applicants June 1. For applications and information, contact Joyce Lindgren at Teton Medical Center, 915 Fourth St. N.W., Choteau, or call 406-466-5763.

Statewide there are nursing staff and other medical position shortages. It is very expensive and not cost effective to continuously use contract sources. Teton Medical Center is being proactive in investing in our staff and encouraging them to further their education to fill these shortage areas of staffing. If there are any other staff or extended families interested in our programs, please contact us. Areas of interest are CNA, LPN, and RN certifications or licensing education, also, radiology, laboratory and medical records transcriptionist or coding specialists.



TMC photo

The community is invited to a farewell celebration for Dr. Laura Shelton on June 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at TMC. Dr. Shelton is moving to the Bitterroot Valley to take a new position.

Come say goodbye to Dr. Shelton on June 12

The Teton Medical Center Hospital District Board and the TMC management and staff wish a fond farewell to Dr. Laura Shelton.

Dr. Shelton has been in Choteau providing medical care to the community for 10 years. During that time she has exemplified the "Hometown Quality Care" that we so proudly boast.

You will see some new faces at the Great Falls Clinic and some familiar faces as well during this transition.

Change is a part of life, and no matter how difficult it is for us to have Dr. Shelton go, we want nothing but the best for her in her new challenges.

Everyone in the community is cordially invited to attend a farewell celebration for Dr. Shelton on Thursday, June 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. at TMC.

Career Corner: Nursing career opportunities

There are three major educational paths to registered nursing: a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN), an associate degree in Nursing (ADN), and a diploma. BSN programs, offered by colleges and universities, take about four years to complete. Generally, licensed graduates of any of the three types of educational programs qualify for entry-level positions as staff nurses

Many ADN- and diploma-educated nurses later enter bachelor's programs to prepare for a broader scope of nursing practice. Often, they can find a staff nurse position and then take advantage of tuition reimbursement benefits to work toward a BSN by completing one of many RN-to-BSN programs.

In all states students must

graduate from an approved nursing program and pass a national licensing examination to obtain a nursing license.

All states require periodic renewal of licenses, which may involve continuing education.

Nursing care facility nurses manage care for residents with conditions ranging from a fracture to Alzheimer's disease.

Home health nurses provide nursing services to patients at home. Registered nurses assess patients' home environments and instruct patients and their families.

Public health nurses work in government and private agencies, including clinics, schools, retirement communities, and other community settings. They focus on populations, working with individuals, groups, and

families to improve the overall health of communities.

Occupational health nurses, also called industrial nurses, provide nursing care at work sites to employees, customers and others with injuries and illnesses.

Head nurses or nurse supervisors direct nursing activities, primarily in hospitals. They plan work schedules and assign duties to nurses and aides, provide or arrange for training, and visit patients to observe nurses and to ensure that the patients receive proper care. They also may ensure that records are maintained and equipment and supplies are ordered.

A nursing career can be very rewarding. If you have an interest and would like more information please contact TMC Human Resources at 406-466-5763.

Continued from Front Page: More answers to your questions about TMC

separate entity. However, TMC staff offer Teton Nursing Home residents physical and occupational therapy.

Are my donations to TMC tax deductible?

Your donations to TMC's

Foundation are tax deductible.

What is the Teton Medical Center Foundation, and what is its relationship to TMC?

The TMC Foundation is a 501c-3 corporation (nonprofit corporation with a federal tax ID

number) which receives and manages donations for TMC. All Foundation donations are used to support TMC's operations: new equipment, building projects, renovations or services to our clients.

If you have any questions about Teton Medical Center or its services, please call Genny Barhaugh or Joyce Lindgren at 406-466-5763.

They will be glad to answer your questions.