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Santa Fe, NM

Today



30%
Thunderstorms
89°F | 58°F

Tomorrow



40%
Chance Thunderstorms
84°F | 56°F

Dialysis clinic coming to Española

Written by Brad Buck

A new dialysis clinic in Española will better serve patients in northern New Mexico, said officials with Fresenius Medical Care North America.

Company officials broke ground on the 8,000-square-foot facility last week and hope to open it for patient care by the end of this year.

Debbie Turiciano, director of operations for Fresenius, said the new clinic will be on Calle de la Merced in Española and will replace the old, 5,000-square-foot dialysis center on Riverside Drive.

"We've outgrown that clinic," she said.

Some 76 patients use the current clinic. They and 30 more patients are expected to get treatment in the new facility, Turiciano said.

Fresenius also has a clinic in Santa Fe, at 741 Harkle Road — a 10,000-square-foot building that serves about 90 patients, she said.

There's a need for more kidney patient treatment in northern New Mexico, Turiciano said. For one thing, this area has a high rate of diabetes and hypertension. That's because many people don't catch or treat those conditions early enough, Turiciano said.

"Usually by the time they reach us, they only have about 20 percent functioning kidneys," she said. "They need dialysis, or they won't live."

According to the Mayo Clinic's Web site, www.mayoclinic.com, many people with chronic kidney failure don't realize they have a problem until their kidney function has decreased to less than 25 percent of normal.

Like any dialysis patient, those served by Fresenius come into the clinic three times a week for four to five hours at a time. That's a long time to sit in a chair, so the clinic supplies patients with TVs and Internet, among other amenities.

According to the company's Web site, dialysis is a life-sustaining process that cleans waste products from the blood, removes extra fluids and controls the body's chemistry when a person's kidneys fail. Dialysis patients typically require treatment on an ongoing basis unless they receive a kidney transplant.

Company officials list the following as some signs and symptoms of possible chronic kidney disease:

- ; Urine that is foamy or bubbly, red or pink (contains blood), urinating more or less than usual, or getting up at night to urinate.
- ; Swelling of the face, hands and/or feet.
- ; Feeling more tired than usual.
- ; Nausea/vomiting.
- ; Headaches, feeling dizzy, having trouble thinking clearly.
- ; Severe itching not related to a bite or rash.
- ; Shortness of breath or feeling that you can't catch your breath.
- ; Loss of appetite or changes in the way foods taste.
- ; High blood pressure.

For more information, log onto www.ultracare-dialysis.com (in English and Spanish) or www.fmcna.com.

Contact Brad Buck at bbuck@nmfreepress.com or (505) 628-4408.


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