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Yakima Urology Associates partners with Memorial Family of Services

YAKIMA – Yakima Urology Associates, which provides adult and pediatric urology care, is aligning with Memorial Family of Services through a service agreement aimed at streamlining patient care and supporting the long-term availability of urology services in the Yakima Valley.

Under the new partnership, physicians from Yakima Urology Associates (YUA) will oversee and direct urology programs at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. YUA also will become part of the SignalHealth network, a clinically integrated network of care that includes independent care givers and physicians and is supported by Memorial. Memorial will operate the ambulatory surgical center located at Yakima Urology Associates, which will allow for some non-urology outpatient surgeries to be handled there.

Partnerships in health care are becoming more commonplace as providers work to maintain high-quality services, improve access to specialty care, advance physician recruitment and expand financial, clinical and information systems resources. Ultimately, these collaborations benefit patients and communities that they serve. The partnership between YUA and Memorial is the culmination of more than a year of discussions.

“Across the country, physicians are joining health systems to better position themselves to respond to health care reform and to ensure the best possible care for patients,” says Dr. Raymond Merrell, President of Yakima Urology Associates, PLLC. “We are excited about the possibilities a partnership affords to ensure the continuity of quality urological care in the Yakima Valley.”

As Memorial moves from a fee-for-service model of health care to values-based reimbursement, services must remain available locally to meet community need, Memorial CEO Russ Myers says.

“This partnership reinforces our common goal to provide critical urology services in Yakima,” Myers says. “As health care evolves, partnerships like this will be essential to improving the overall health of our population, while reducing health care costs.”

Yakima Urology Associates has been providing pediatric and adult urological services at its 31,000-square-foot clinic and surgery center, located at 2500 Racquet Lane, since June 2009. The clinic employs eight medical providers, as well as administrative, nursing and surgical staff.

Patients at Yakima Urology Associates will see no change to the process for making appointments and receiving care. The same staff will be providing care in the same location.

Yakima Urology Associates encourages anyone with questions to contact the office at (509) 249-3900.

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