

News Statement from Kaiser Permanente

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Kaiser Permanente Responds to Proposed Exempla Sponsorship Transfer

Denver, CO – Kaiser Permanente Colorado developed an immediate plan to respond to the proposed Exempla Healthcare sponsorship transfer that was not challenged yesterday by the Colorado Attorney General. This plan ensures all members will have access to a full range of medical services. A long-term solution is being evaluated.

Should the transfer of ownership occur, all Exempla Healthcare facilities would be required to honor the ethical and religious directives associated with Catholic health care. This does not change services at Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital, one of Kaiser Permanente's core hospitals, because it already operates under the Catholic Ethical and Religious Directives. However, it does affect Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center, a Kaiser Permanente core hospital. It also affects Exempla Lutheran Medical Center.

Kaiser Permanente understands the transfer will not take place until Feb. 29, 2008, therefore should the sponsorship change be completed, no changes to services for Kaiser Permanente members would occur prior to that date.

Kaiser Permanente is working with Exempla to facilitate a solution to continue to provide members with a full range of medical services including women's reproductive services. If these services are no longer available through Exempla's system, Kaiser Permanente will work with its physicians to provide care for patients in alternate contracted facilities including HealthONE hospitals: Swedish Medical Center, Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center and Sky Ridge Medical Center.

Kaiser Permanente's recent announcement of an expanded relationship with HCA-HealthONE greatly enhances the health plan's ability to ensure a comprehensive solution for members. Members who need services outside the Exempla system will consult with their Kaiser Permanente physician to develop a care plan to access services in the community. Kaiser Permanente will also work with community physicians affiliated with HealthONE.

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