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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**NORTHWEST MEDICAL CENTER PLANS FREESTANDING EMERGENCY ROOM IN VAIL**

Tucson, AZ (October 31, 2014) — Northwest Medical Center will open the first freestanding emergency department in Tucson, giving residents in Vail access to nearby emergency services. Northwest Emergency Center at Vail will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to serve patients who experience medical emergencies.

Northwest Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Kevin Stockton said, "Northwest Emergency Center at Vail will provide faster access to emergency care for people living in the Rita Ranch and Vail areas. We have been serving more than just 'Northwest' Tucson for many years and this is another example of our commitment to expand healthcare in the greater metropolitan area. "

Like any hospital emergency department, the new Northwest Emergency Center will be equipped to treat patients with illnesses and injuries that require a higher level of care than urgent care facilities offer. The freestanding emergency department will have 12 private patient rooms with radiology and lab services on-site. Many emergency services can be effectively managed at freestanding emergency departments without the need for transfer to a traditional hospital setting.

Board-certified emergency physicians, registered nurses and other patient care providers will staff the center. Dr. Jim Hassen, medical director for the Emergency Department at Northwest Medical Center, said, "Our team of emergency physicians is looking forward to being part of this exciting new venture. This facility will be a first in Tucson and we are pleased to be able to offer high quality emergency care at another convenient location."

Northwest Medical Center is investing \$7.2 million in the new facility. More than 30 new jobs will be created to serve patients at the new center, including registered nurses and lab, imaging, admitting and environmental services staff.

"We congratulate Northwest Medical Center on this expansion. Strong healthcare is a key focus area for economic development in the region," said Guy Gunther, chairman of the TREO Board of Directors and vice president of operations, Arizona, CenturyLink. "A healthy workforce means a productive workforce, and workforce quality is a key consideration in a company's decision to expand or relocate." TREO (Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc.), a private/public economic development agency, focuses on primary job and investment growth in order to increase wealth and accelerate economic prosperity throughout Southern Arizona.

Northwest Emergency Center will be located 10146 East Old Vail Road in Houghton Town Center at the intersection of Houghton and Old Vail Roads. Construction is scheduled to begin in January and is expected to be completed in late 2015.

"We are thrilled to bring Northwest Medical to Houghton Town Center," said Shannon Murphy, Director of Sales and Marketing, Diamond Ventures, the developer of Houghton Town Center. "Southeast Tucson is growing rapidly, so providing services like emergency care that are lacking in this submarket is an important part of our strategic plan for this community center."

Northwest Medical Center also offers urgent care, primary care, cardiology and other specialty clinics throughout the Tucson metropolitan area.

**Northwest Medical Center**

*Northwest Medical Center is a 300-bed hospital offering a full range of healthcare services including Emergency services, accredited chest pain and heart failure programs, neurology and neurosurgery, outpatient imaging, a nationally accredited surgical weight loss program, total joint program, spine program and stroke center (distinguished by Joint Commission with Gold Seal designations), robotic surgery, GI lab, a free-standing women's center, women's imaging center of excellence (including 3D mammography) inpatient rehabilitation facility, wound care center, five urgent care facilities, and the Lazos de Familia and Healthy Beginnings pregnancy outreach programs. NMC also has three ambulatory surgery centers and affiliated medical practices including Northwest Allied Physicians offering primary care and a wide range of specialists, Desert Cardiology and The Heart Center of Southern Arizona. For more information, visit [www.NorthwestMedicalCenter.com](http://www.NorthwestMedicalCenter.com).*

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