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**Changes Coming to Burn Care**

*Nebraska Medicine will close its inpatient burn unit, transferring acute burn care to CHI Health St. Elizabeth*

**Omaha, NE** – CHI Health and Nebraska Medicine are paving the way for a new collaboration between the two organizations. On Sept. 4, Nebraska Medicine will close its inpatient burn unit, sending patients with serious burn injuries to the region’s only verified Burn Center located at CHI Health St. Elizabeth in Lincoln.

St. Elizabeth is one of 66 burn centers in the United States verified by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Burn Association (ABA). The unit has been internationally recognized for outstanding research and treatment. Every year, this 16-bed center helps approximately 500 burn patients from a six-state area.

Nebraska Medicine will continue to care for burn patients in its outpatient clinic, 24/7 trauma center (stabilizing patients and transferring to St. Elizabeth), and on their Medical Surgical unit for patients with burns covering 10 percent or less of the body surface.

“This decision was made after much careful research and discussion,” said Nebraska Medicine Chief Medical Officer Harris Frankel, MD. “As we transition away from inpatient burn treatment, residents of the Omaha Metro can be assured that our emergency and trauma response for burn patients will be as strong as ever, as will our outpatient clinic care. We’ll work closely with the staff at St. Elizabeth to make sure burn patients receive the right care in the right center.”

This move shows how CHI Health and Nebraska Medicine are working together to eliminate the duplication of this highly specialized service. Nebraska Medicine sees an average of 100 burn patients a year in its unit. Consolidating inpatient care to one burn unit lowers the overall cost of care for patients and employers, while still ensuring patients have access to high-quality care.

“The team of highly skilled and specially trained physicians, nurses and therapists welcome the opportunity to care for more burn patients.” Cary Ward, CHI Health Chief Medical Officer said. “This collaboration is a perfect illustration of how health systems are working together to reduce

costs and improve quality of care through specialization”

Media Opportunities on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm:

- Interviews with Cary Ward, MD, Interim President & Chief Medical Officer
- Interviews with David Voigt, MD, Co-Medical Director
- Interviews with Zijun Hao, MD, Co-Medical Director
- Interviews with Christi Chaves, Director
- Footage of Regional Burn & Wound Center

**About CHI Health:**

CHI Health is a regional health network with a unified mission: nurturing the healing ministry of the Church while creating healthier communities. Headquartered in Omaha, the combined organization consists of 14 hospitals, two stand-alone behavioral health facilities, more than 150 employed physician practice locations and more than 14,000 employees in Nebraska and southwestern Iowa.

CHI Health is part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), a national nonprofit health system based in Englewood, Colorado.

The faith-based system operates in 18 states and includes 103 hospitals, as well as long-term care, assisted- and residential living communities; community health services organizations; home health agencies and outpatient facilities and services.

In fiscal year 2016, CHI provided more than \$1.1 billion in financial assistance and community benefit. CHI generated operating revenues of \$15.9 billion and has total assets of approximately \$22.7 billion.

**About Nebraska Medicine:**

Nebraska Medicine leads the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future through extraordinary care, discovery and learning. The most esteemed academic medical center in the region, Nebraska Medicine offers exceptional patient care combined with innovative research and education through its partner, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

This organization provides its patients with access to more than 1,000 physicians, 809 licensed hospital beds in Omaha and Bellevue, and nearly 40 specialty and primary care clinics in Omaha and the surrounding area. Together, Nebraska Medicine and UNMC have approximately 12,000 employees, making it the largest employer in Omaha.

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