

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Subject:** After-Hours Medical Care

### **After-Hours Medical Care Opens in Basalt**

Aspen Valley Hospital (AVH) is pleased to announce the opening of the valley's first clinic for "after-hours" medical care. Located in the Aspen-Basalt Health Care Center at 234 Cody Lane in Basalt, the clinic opens on Monday, February 16. Hours are 5:00 – 10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Walk-in visits are welcome during those times.

The clinic is a cost-effective way to receive needed medical care when your doctor's office is closed. Previously, a costly visit to a hospital emergency room was often the only option when a person was injured or ill and in need of evening or week-end medical attention.

According to Bart Outzen, director of diagnostic imaging at AVH and leader in the development of the clinic, "There are still times when people need to go to the ER, but for many conditions - -- for example, upper respiratory infections, flu, sprains, simple fractures, lacerations, urinary tract infections --- the after-hours clinic will allow for quick examination, diagnosis, and treatment."

For follow-up care, patients will be asked to make an appointment with their primary care doctor or a specialist. The clinic is not intended to replace the personal physician.

Staff for the clinic includes registered nurses, X-ray technologists, and physicians. Providing full-time physician coverage is Kiernan Smith, MD, a board-certified family medicine specialist. Dr. Smith received his medical degree at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland. His internship took place in Asheville, North Carolina, and his residency was completed at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Most recently, Dr. Smith was an employee health physician for a VA Hospital in Albuquerque.

As a family medicine specialist, Dr. Smith was trained to diagnose and treat a wide variety of ailments in patients of all ages. "Evidence-based practice is my knowledge base," said Dr. Smith, "but the development of trust is what allows a physician to implement the practice. I let the patient tell their story. Once they feel listened to, they feel known, and that allows me, as a physician, to help them."

Dr. Smith's wife, Farrell McClain, MD, is also a family medicine specialist. A former resident of Breckenridge and snowboard instructor, it was her love of the mountains that stimulated the couple's interest in moving to the Roaring Fork Valley. Dr. McClain will work part-time at the after-hours clinic, covering several shifts per month. She was also trained at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin and completed her internship and residency in North and South Carolina.

Drs. Smith and McClain are the parents of two daughters, ages 3 ½ years and 5 months.

The after-hours clinic is located in the Aspen-Basalt Health Care Center, a project of the Aspen Valley Medical Foundation (AVMF). The building will also house the new offices of Hospice of the Valley, as well as Pathfinders, Aspen Counseling Center, and Community Health Services on a part-time basis. The building represents the extension of healthcare services from Aspen to the mid-valley, fulfilling the vision and commitment of AVMF to serve the increasing health and human service needs of valley-wide communities.

To reach the Aspen-Basalt Health Care Center and after-hours care, turn west off Highway 82 in Basalt at the "Park and Ride." Go left on Cody Lane. Travel .1 mile and the building is on the left. For more information about after-hours care, call 544-1250.