

# Harms Spotlight on Health

PRESENTED BY HARMS MEMORIAL



HOSPITAL DISTRICT

## Quality Emergency Services, Close to Home

I was recently visiting with a friend of mine who had a very long and difficult night when he had to take his son to the emergency room in Pocatello for an injury. They spent over six hours waiting for treatment. I've heard many stories just like this from other members our community. Like my friend, many people I speak with have shared similar stories of long wait times at out-of-town emergency rooms before receiving treatment. When you're sick or injured any wait can seem like an eternity to receive care, especially one that lasts six hours. The Harm's emergency department is an integral piece of our hospital services and we are glad to be able to provide quality and timely emergency services to



Dallas Clinger

our community. I hope that I can help eliminate some of the misconceptions that some in our community may have regarding Harm's emergency room services.

First a few statistics that may surprise you about our emergency services. It is in-

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teresting to note that for the first three quarters of our current fiscal year we have had 1251 emergency room visits. That averages about 139 per month. We expect that number to get much higher, throughout the summer months, which are typically our busiest time of the year for the emergency room. Many of us and visitors from outside our community are out enjoying our area's recreational areas on the weekends and evenings and several are traveling thru on summer vacations. This inevitably means that a few more accidents are bound to happen that can result in a trip

to the ER. And since time is an important factor for patients to receive treatment and get back to their families, it will impress you to know that the average total amount of time our patients spend in the emergency room for treatment and services is one hour and 20 minutes. So you're whole day or night is not completely lost.

Another noteworthy statistics is that currently less than 5% of our emergency room visits have resulted in transfers to other hospitals. Those who are transferred are in need of immediate surgeries or are at a level of acuity that

requires more than a hospital our size can provide.

Many of you may also wonder where our patients are from. Our current fiscal year numbers show that 88% of our patients are members of our own community living in American Falls, Aberdeen, and Rockland areas. The other 12% are from outside of town whether they're from Pocatello or visitors traveling thru our area. Also a surprising statistic shows that the largest numbers of patients seen at the ER are children between the ages of 0-13 for both boys and girls. We also see a large number of males between the ages of 20 and 39 as well as our elderly population over the age of 70.

I hope this information gives you an idea of how busy

and important our ER is to our community. Our belief is that we never want you to have an emergency, but if you do, we want to provide the very best medical care with the hometown compassion that you can only get in a small community. I invite you to continue to utilize the great services, such as the emergency room, of Harms Memorial Hospital District and I wish you and your families all the best as you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Dallas Clinger, Administrator  
Harms Memorial Hospital District