



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release



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St. Luke's and Saltzer Medical Group Announce New Working Relationship

-- Organizations will work together to improve coordination of care --

Boise – Officials from St. Luke's and Saltzer Medical Group announced today the formation of a new alliance intended to improve the quality and access to health care services for residents of Ada and Canyon County.

The agreement, which was signed earlier this month, will allow Saltzer Medical Group and St. Luke's to work more closely together in coordinating medical services and streamlining health care delivery for their mutual patients. This alliance takes advantage of both organizations' experience in developing high quality health care services.

"Coordinated care is the best care for patients," said Bill Savage, CEO of Saltzer Medical Group. "Through this new partnership and the clinical relationships that will result, patients will experience a higher level of care coordination and communication with their primary care or specialist physician and the hospital."

Saltzer Medical Group and St. Luke's will collaborate around several specialized medical services that have been identified as focus areas for our community. Initially the organizations will focus on Cardiovascular Care and Urology. Over time, additional relationships will be explored around other clinical services as well as medical office development and group purchasing arrangements.

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“The benefits of our relationship with Saltzer Medical Group and its providers can go beyond the clinical benefits our mutual patients will receive,” said Gary Fletcher, St. Luke’s Boise-Meridian CEO. “As we look to the future, we will be able to realize a number of efficiencies in how care is delivered which will result in real cost savings.”

Saltzer Medical Group is the largest, physician owned, multispecialty group in Idaho with 47 physicians, in 15 specialties across 9 locations in the Treasure Valley. Saltzer Medical group was founded in 1961.

St. Luke’s is Idaho’s only locally governed not-for-profit health system. The system offers a full continuum of care through its four hospitals and more than 30 outpatient centers and clinics. St. Luke’s 7,170 employees, 970-member medical staff, and more than 850 volunteers are committed to delivering the highest quality care to those in medical need regardless of their ability to pay. With a mission “To improve the health of people in our region,” St. Luke’s provided \$187 million (including capital) in community benefit during its 2007 fiscal year. The hospitals of St. Luke’s have earned numerous national awards and recognition for excellence in patient care. For more information about St. Luke’s, visit www.stlukesonline.org.

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On the Web:

Saltzer Medical Group: www.saltzermed.com

St. Luke’s: <http://www.stlukesonline.org>

