



OSF[®] HEALTHCARE

OSF Heart of Mary opening pain and spine center

Clinic will provide increased access to high-demand care in the Champaign County area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tim Ditman, OSF HealthCare Media Relations Coordinator | (309) 838-9664

Note for reporters: OSF Heart of Mary will host a blessing and dedication for the pain and spine center at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2023. The event is not open to the public, but reporters are invited to attend. Interview, photo and video opportunities will be available. Please RSVP to Tim Ditman.

(November 30, 2023 | Urbana, Illinois) – Residents in the Champaign County area will soon have increased access to care for chronic pain and spine issues through a new clinic at OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana.

The renovated space on the first floor of the hospital is expected to be open for patient care on December 20. Hours will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Services offered include lidocaine and steroid injections and radio frequency ablation, both of which are designed to decrease pain and provide an alternative to surgery.

Zeeshan Ahmad, MD, a longtime spine and pain management provider in Champaign-Urbana, is returning to the area to serve patients at the new center. He will be joined by neurosurgeons from OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute and other clinical staff. OSF is also exploring adding other providers to meet the needs of the community. The clinic will also have a dedicated parking lot and entrance to make appointments more convenient.

“With an aging population across the country, care for chronic pain and spine issues is in high demand, and it’s no different in Champaign County,” said J.T. Barnhart, president of OSF Heart of Mary. “Living with daily pain impacts your quality of life. That’s why the ability to get an appointment quickly through this new clinic is important. Our Mission Partners [employees] are excited to meet this community need.”

People can also choose to use OSF Heart of Mary for related services like physical therapy and MRIs, making the hospital a one-stop shop for treatment of pain and spine issues. OSF HealthCare accepts most insurances, including Health Alliance.

People interested in an appointment at the pain and spine center can call (217) 337-3045.

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OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF HealthCare has 16 hospitals – 10 acute care, five critical access, one transitional care - with 2,131 licensed beds throughout Illinois and Michigan. OSF employs nearly 24,000 Mission Partners across 150+ locations; has two colleges of nursing; operates OSF Home Care Services, an extensive network of home health and hospice services; owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. In 2020, OSF OnCall was established, a digital health operating unit, including a hospital-at-home. OSF OnCall delivers care and services when, where and how patients prefer to receive them. OSF HealthCare has been recognized by *Fortune* as one of the most innovative companies in the country. More at osfhealthcare.org.

Pronunciations for broadcast media:

Zeeshan Ahmad: ZEE-shawn // ah-MAHD