



## Press Release

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## For Immediate Release

### **Ballot Measure BB approved the sale of Healdsburg Hospital**

*New management transition successfully underway*

**Healdsburg, CA** – On January 1, 2021, NorCal HealthConnect, LLC, a secular affiliate of Providence St. Joseph Health, assumed their new role as owners and managers of the Healdsburg District Hospital, which will now be known as Healdsburg Hospital.

In November 2020, voters in the district passed ballot Measure BB which authorized the sale of the hospital by the District Board to NorCal HealthConnect. The District Board and NorCal HealthConnect teams dedicated long hours at the end of 2020 to ensure the successful execution of an agreement to commence in the new year.

“We are very pleased and thankful that Northern Sonoma County residents voted overwhelmingly to keep their hospital open,” said David Southerland, interim vice president of Operations. “Without that public support, and the partnership of the District Board, this transition would not be possible.”

“We are also very excited about our path forward. The Healdsburg team has received us with a warm welcome and our initial meetings have laid the groundwork for a strong working relationship. We are in the second full week of a thoughtful discovery period to become more familiar with the hospital’s operations and personnel. Our approach is to understand what is working, where extra resources may be needed, and to identify opportunities for improvement or enhancement. Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of the communities and patients we serve, and we are united in our dedication to providing the quality care this community has come to rely on.”

The hospital’s new ownership should not affect the patient experience and all health care providers, clinics, and insurance plans will remain unchanged. The hospital will continue to operate as a Medicare-designated Critical Access Hospital (“CAH”) for at least the next 30 years, and will maintain its 24/7 dedicated emergency department in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations.

The transition of ownership will also not affect the hospital’s focus on caring for COVID-19 patients and administering vaccinations. The hospital has already provided at least



the first vaccine dose to about 68 percent of its front-line caregivers, and is looking forward to partnering with Sonoma County and other health care providers to begin vaccinating members of the community very soon.

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