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NEW EAR, NOSE & THROAT SPECIALIST JOINS NOCHS; INTRODUCES NEW, INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR CHRONIC SINUSITIS TREATMENT

New surgical implant to be used in improving quality of life for chronic sinusitis patients at hospital

GRAND HAVEN, MI, October 27, 2014 – North Ottawa Community Health System (NOCHS) welcomes Seth Palmer, DO to the Grand Haven community as he joins Richard Strabbing, DO in caring for Ear, Nose & Throat (Otolaryngology) patients as part of the Michigan ENT & Allergy practice and the ENT surgical program at NOCHS.

Dr. Strabbing and Dr. Palmer are bringing a new approach to treating chronic sinusitis to NOCHS. Chronic sinusitis, which affects 31 million people in the United States, is a condition where a patient’s sinuses become swollen and inflamed, leading to difficulty breathing, facial pain or headache, and loss of smell and taste. Standard corrective surgery is an effective treatment for this condition, but the majority of patients experience recurrent symptoms within the first year and as many as 25% undergo revision surgery.

“Expanding access to ears, nose and throat (ENT) expertise in our community is greatly needed. NOCHS was pleased to partner with Dr. Strabbing to recruit Dr. Palmer to Grand Haven and help him establish a presence here,” said Dr. Haney Assaad, Vice President of Medical Affairs for NOCHS. “He brings great skill and talent to our town. Moreover, Dr. Palmer has a great way with his patients – many of whom are suffering chronic conditions – and needs not only a skilled surgeon, but someone who can be compassionate and understand the burden of living with head and neck pain.”

The PROPEL® mometasone furoate implant was developed to keep the openings created during sinus surgery longer. The spring-like implants – similar in concept to cardiac stents – are placed in the sinus cavity and gradually deliver an advanced steroid with anti-inflammatory properties directly to the sinus lining. The implant then dissolves into the body following surgery, resulting in sinus cavities that stay open longer, whereby improving quality of life – patients breathe easier, smell things they didn’t realize they missed and resume activities such as travel and exercise.

Dr. Palmer is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology for head and neck surgery. He is a Michigan native and received his medical degree from Michigan State University (MSU) College of Osteopathic Medicine before completing his internship and residency at MSU’s Genesys Regional Medical Center in Lansing. In addition to his skill in all aspects of head and neck surgery, particularly correcting chronic sinusitis, Dr. Palmer was also recognized by Our Health magazine in 2014 for his exceptional bedside manner.

Dr. Strabbing will continue to hold office hours and perform surgery at NOCHS but will be based in Holland. Dr. Palmer will be based full-time in Grand Haven with an office in Harbor Dunes on the main hospital campus, 1445 Sheldon Road, Suite 301, and will perform all of his surgery at NOCHS.

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About North Ottawa Community Health Systems
Nationally ranked for patient experience by HealthGrades, North Ottawa Community Hospital is part of a full continuum of care including an 84-bed long-term care facility, home health care and durable medical equipment services, retail pharmacy, urgent care center, as well as physician practices in primary care and OB/GYN. It also includes North Ottawa County’s first in-patient hospice facility and longest running community-based hospice program on the lakeshore. NOCHS is among the lakeshore’s major employers with more than 800 employees.