



Christie Clinic Closes Occupational Medicine ***Effective September 30, 2011***

[Champaign, IL] Christie Clinic closed its department of occupational medicine on September 30th, 2011.

The department's longtime physician, Dr. David Hamilton, retired at the end of the month, according to Christie Clinic spokeswoman, Karen Blatzer.

The clinic had been searching for another doctor to take over for Hamilton, who has been practicing medicine for more than 50 years. However, since a replacement, certified in occupational health, wasn't lined up by the time Hamilton announced his retirement, clinic leaders decided to close the department, Blatzer said.

Christie Clinic says its occupational medicine department has served more than 300 companies in Central Illinois for more than 20 years.

People with work-related injuries will continue to be seen by primary care doctors and specialists at the clinic and at its convenient care centers, Christie officials said. Christie Clinic is also working with SafeWorks Illinois to offer other occupational health services to area employers.

An occupational health center at 1806 N. Market St., SafeWorks Illinois announced in July that it sold its Decatur office to St. Mary's Hospital and planned to expand its business in Champaign and Chicago.

SafeWorks offers such services as injury treatment, rehabilitation and drug testing.

Dr. David Fletcher, founder and owner of SafeWorks Illinois Occupational Health Services, said SafeWorks and Christie Clinic have been collaborating for several years and that will continue.

"We're working closely with Christie," he said. "We think they're an excellent organization." Fletcher believes that SafeWorks can best serve the community by continuing to work closely with both Christie Clinic and Provena.

ABOUT SAFEWORKS ILLINOIS

SafeWorks Illinois and 217 Rehabilitation & Performance Center provide comprehensive occupational health services and return-to-work programs to create safe, drug-free business and industries. SafeWorks' ultimate goal is to promote wellness in the workplace by developing prevention programs, and with that, provide injury treatment and industrial rehabilitation services to help the employee recover, rehabilitate, and return to work. SafeWorks Illinois provides 24-hour access to doctors and 'Fast-Track' services with offices in both Champaign and Chicago. Please visit www.safeworksillinois.com for additional information.

ABOUT 217 REHAB & PERFORMANCE CENTER

217 Rehab & Performance Center, a new division of SafeWorks Illinois, provides physical therapy services to enhance overall quality of care. We achieve this by using state-of-the-art physical therapy modalities and customized exercise programs to achieve the quality results with medical oversight for each individual patient.

