

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Tri-City Requested the Department of Health to Review Both the Transfer Policy and Practices of Tri-City and Scripps to Assure Against Improper and Dangerous Transfers for Monetary Gain

On June 10, 2009, Tri-City Healthcare District (“TCHD”) requested the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) assist in the correction of alleged deficiencies and upgrading of the quality of care for the patients in its District. Tri-City has recently sued Scripps Health, Inc. and Sharp Mission Park Medical Group claiming that Scripps has put medical care of its patients behind its own financial profit by redirecting patients away from Tri-City to Scripps facility.

Tri-City has alleged that Scripps has told patients that their insurance would not pay for treatment at Tri-City and that physicians who referred patients to Tri-City would no longer receive referrals from Scripps. Tri-City has voluntarily agreed to open all of its records to the California Department of Public Health in order to protect and preserve the safety of the residents of the Tri-City area.

Tri-City also requested Scripps open its books and records to the Department of Public Health to help it complete its investigation of Tri-City’s claims. Scripps has refused to cooperate with Tri-City in this regard and has not agreed to open its records to the Department of Public Health as requested by Tri-City.

Tri-City’s request for consultation with CDPH is predicated on the following:

1. The need to ensure that patients’ safety is not compromised due to the redirection of care to another medical facility when equal or a higher level of care is immediately available;
2. To ensure that the appropriate level of care is given and that transfer does not place the safety of the patient at risk; and
3. To ensure that all physicians, patients, and families in the Tri-City area are afforded the right to decide the appropriate institution for treatment and not allow that choice to be dictated through threat of economic duress.

Despite Tri-City's request, Scripps has refused to provide a copy of its response to the California Department of Public Health seeking a full and complete review of Scripps' practices in the same manner that Tri-City has requested the CDPH's full and complete review.

Unlike Tri-City, who requested review by the CDPH and has opened its books and records to the CDPH, Scripps has not notified the CDPH of its willingness to allow an inspection of its books and records.

A PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING THESE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES AND THE NEW LAWSUIT WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009, AT 11:00 AM, AT TRI-CITY MEDICAL CENTER, ASSEMBLY ROOM 2. INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE LOCATION FROM THE FRONT ENTRANCE.