

Rockford Orthopedic Associates and Crystal Lake Orthopedics Announce Intent to Merge

- Patients will benefit from the expansion of highly skilled university-quality orthopedic services offered through the combined organizations.
- Combining will further the organizations' ability to recruit and attract top health care providers.
- Patients will see little change as a result of this merger and there will be no disruption in care.
- Organizations enter into a due diligence process with a goal to finalize merger in the fall of 2013

Rockford, IL (January 23, 2013) – Today Rockford Orthopedic Associates and Crystal Lake Orthopedics, two specialty health care organizations in the region, announced their intent to merge and have entered into a due diligence process. Following the completion of the merger in the fall of 2013, the organizations will utilize their combined resources to expand their subspecialty services offered to patients.

The merger allows each clinic to continue to serve their patients and strengthen their overall delivery of care, which includes recruiting skilled staff and physicians, improving technology and enhancing customer service. It will also help the organizations expand subspecialty services to residents in the entire northern Illinois region.

"I'm excited for what this opportunity means for the current and potential patients of Rockford Orthopedic Associates and Crystal Lake Orthopedics. Each clinic is a state-of-the-art facility with experienced and highly-skilled physicians. By merging to create a larger and fully-integrated organization, patients are going to see a new level of comprehensive care that allows them to have specialized medical needs met without having to travel out of their own area," said Don Schreiner, CEO of Rockford Orthopedic Associates.

"Crystal Lake Orthopedics' patients will benefit from the expanded subspecialty services of spine, pediatric orthopedics and hip arthroscopy as the clinic will be able to recruit or rotate those subspecialties to the Crystal Lake region. The merger will elevate the service offerings and provide Crystal Lake patients with additional subspecialty services at a facility close to home," said Ed Grogg, CEO of Crystal Lake Orthopedics.

After the merger is finalized, Grogg will continue in a leadership role as the new Chief Operating Officer and will maintain his office in Crystal Lake to provide oversight of daily operations.

While Crystal Lake Orthopedics will be merged into Rockford Orthopedic Associates, the clinic name will not change. Current providers will also remain in Crystal Lake so there will be no disruption in patient care. The physicians at Crystal Lake Orthopedics will also maintain their current hospital privilege designation and call coverage.

"Each practice and its physicians will continue to have strong relationships with surrounding hospitals and health systems to provide comprehensive full-service care to patients," said Schreiner.

Crystal Lake Orthopedics and Rockford Orthopedic Associates met with leaders from Centegra Health System in McHenry County to provide insight on the organizations' intent to merge.

... a higher standard of care.

"As our region continues to grow and our population lives longer, more residents need convenient access to orthopedic care. Specialized orthopedic treatments allow them to live the active lifestyle they desire," said Centegra Health System CEO Michael Eesley.

Crystal Lake Orthopedics currently has four orthopedic surgeons sub-specializing in total joint replacement, hand, upper extremity surgery, shoulder reconstruction and sports medicine; a podiatric surgeon; and two physician assistants. It also has its own rehabilitation. Crystal Lake Orthopedics medical providers include Steven Rochell, M.D., John Daniels, M.D., Rolando Izquierdo, M.D., Kelly Holtkamp, M.D. and Amie Haracz, D.P.M.

Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is a subspecialty orthopedic practice with 25 physicians and 16 physician assistants specializing in joint replacement, pediatric, trauma, spine, hand, upper extremity surgery, shoulder reconstruction, sports medicine, rheumatology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, podiatry and occupational medicine. The practice owns an Ambulatory Surgery Center and four rehabilitation centers.

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