



Dear friends,

I am sorry to tell you that Oregon Coast Dermatology will close permanently after Thursday, February 28, 2019. I will not be continuing with your care or renewing your prescriptions after that date.

This may come as a shock, because I had other plans in place until very recently. I love my practice, and I care very much about my wonderful patients, but I am ready to cut back. Owning and running a solo practice is very strenuous and extremely time-consuming, and I am ready for (and need) more time for life outside of medicine.

I very much wanted my practice to continue in the future, and I have gone to great lengths and expense to make that happen. I had a commitment from two wonderful young doctors, one of them a dermatologist, and the other a plastic surgeon, to join Oregon Coast Dermatology starting in 2019. That arrangement would have potentially allowed me to cut back while staying involved long-term. My arrangement was that I was GIVING my practice, providing an income guarantee the first year, some additional financial benefits, and the personal assistance of myself and my husband. The building has already been sold, and the new doctors would have been leasing from the new owner.

Unfortunately, the doctors have changed their minds, and have backed out. My husband and I have worked very hard to recruit doctors over the past few years, with a number of dermatologists visiting my office. At this late date, though, we have decided not to start over again with the recruiting process. Part-time solo practice is not a viable option for a variety of reasons, so I have decided to close.

Young doctors today tend to have a huge debt burden, which greatly limits their willingness to take on the additional risks of private practice. It is also extremely challenging to recruit doctors to rural/remote areas. Our tax structures create additional obstacles for people wanting to be in small business. It is a huge leap for a doctor to move to a remote small town AND go into private practice, whether direct pay or traditional solo practice, even with the very significant assistance and subsidy we offered.

In spite of all the challenges, I have had tremendous and serious interest in my practice and our beautiful area by other board-certified dermatologists, who would like to practice medicine in a way that puts patients first, allows them to spend adequate time with their patients, allows patients more choices, and offers fair and transparent pricing. This model of care is growing around the country, but it is still a relatively small movement. My husband and I have shared useful information of how to do it, with dermatologists and other doctors around the country who are opening direct pay practices.

I still hope that a board-certified dermatologist or two will recognize the great opportunity that exists here and come open a practice here. I will still help direct them here. As of now, the perfect fully-equipped space is still available. I was not willing to sell or give my practice to anyone other than another dermatologist (direct pay model or traditional independent practice), but the office space will be available to lease from the new owner of the building.

I thank my patients and the community for their support over the years. You have placed your trust in me, and every day I have strived to be worthy of that trust, and to deliver high quality, personalized care. I thank my wonderful staff for all their hard work, enthusiasm, and for sharing a belief in treating our patients as well as we can, in spite of any and all obstacles. Thanks also to all the doctors, practitioners, and other patients who have referred patients to me.

Details:

All appointments scheduled after Thursday, February 28, 2019 are hereby cancelled. I encourage all those with ongoing Dermatology issues, including chronic skin conditions and/or history of skin cancer and "pre-cancers", and/or moles and growths that I have advised to have monitored, to get appointments with another dermatologist. Unfortunately, our area is very under-served for Dermatology, and you may need to travel for this.

Here is a list (incomplete) of some board-certified dermatologists:

Dr. Edgar Maeyens, Jr. MD, Silver Falls Dermatology, Coos Bay – (541) 267-7543

Dr. Diane Baird, MD, Eugene, (541) 683-3202

Dr. Kaylan Weese, MD, Dermatology Center of Roseburg, Roseburg - (541) 957-1141

Dr. Jay Gade, MD, Dermatology Center of Roseburg, Roseburg, (541) 957-1141

Dr. Julee Richards, MD, Roseburg - (541) 440-2165

Dr. Tony Nakhla, DO, Advanced Skin Center, Roseburg - (541) 672-7546

Dr. Todd Knapp, MD, Silver Falls Dermatology, Eugene - (541) 967-8385

Dr. Jay Park, MD, (limited to Mohs surgery), Eugene - (541) 344-4168

OHSU Dermatology, Portland, Oregon - (503) 418-3376

Dermatology and Laser Associates, Medford, Oregon - (541) 773-3636

There are also many board-certified dermatologists in Portland.

Of course, there are also other non-dermatologist doctors and practitioners who can take care of some types of medical and surgical skin problems, and you may wish to discuss with your primary care doctor or practitioner who would be best for you.

Once you have decided who you will see in the future for your dermatology needs, you may sign a record release, and we will send a copy of your records directly to that doctor or practitioner. If you want a copy of your records for yourself, you will need to sign a form, and records will be copied for you, for a customary and reasonable fee to cover our costs.

Once we are closed for good, records will go to a medical record storage company. Again, there will be a standard fee for you to get copies of your records for yourself, but records can be sent to another doctor or practitioner for no additional fee.

After February 28, 2019, all patient records will be sent to Desert River Solutions to be the custodian of medical records. To request patient medical records after 2/28/2018, please visit the site below to sign and return the medical release form. All instructions are on that webpage:

<http://www.DesertRiverSolutions.com/requests/>

Contact information for Desert River Solutions:

requests@DesertRiverSolutions.com (Email)

480-577-3150 (Phone)

520-214-0068 (Fax)

It has been my pleasure and my honor to attend to your Dermatology needs over the years, and I wish you the best of health in the future.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Brown, MD, FAAD