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Providence Offers Access to Free Medications through the Dispensary of Hope Program

(Washington, D.C.) April 10, 2019 – Providence Health System now offers eligible patients access to free medications through the Dispensary of Hope program. The agreement between Providence’s pharmacy and the Dispensary of Hope marks the first Dispensary of Hope site in Washington, D.C.

Ascension’s Dispensary of Hope distributes donated medications nationwide to pharmacies and safety-net clinics serving uninsured, low-income and chronically ill persons.

“A person’s lack of access to affordable medication is stressful and can lead to worsening health, as well as avoidable hospital readmissions and emergency room use,” said Tamarah Duperval-Brownlee, MD, MPH, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer of Providence Health System and Chief Community Impact Officer for Ascension. “Our Community Charity Pharmacy stocked by Dispensary of Hope will play an integral part in making a positive impact for D.C. residents by improving access to prescription medications they may rely on each day and is another part of our transformation of Providence to better meet the needs of the community.”

The Dispensary of Hope will operate in the Wellington Apothecary located through the main entrance of the Providence campus.

“Dispensary of Hope is thrilled to serve our uninsured, low-income friends, family and neighbors in the nation’s capital,” said Christopher Palombo, Chief Executive Officer of the Dispensary of Hope. “This charity pharmacy dispensing location is made possible through the generosity of Ascension, and by the continued and massive generosity of the generic pharmaceutical manufacturers, who provide all Dispensary of Hope medication 100 percent free to serve the national community.”

In addition to the Dispensary of Hope, Providence will continue to operate primary care services, skilled nursing care at Carroll Manor, outpatient behavioral health and care coordination for Medicaid beneficiaries through the My Health GPS program. The Emergency Care Center is open through April 30, 2019, while Providence works cooperatively with SHPDA on the Certificate of Need review process for an urgent care center.

About Providence

Providence has served the District of Columbia for more than 150 years. In addition to providing care through its skilled nursing facility, Carroll Manor, and primary care related services, which includes geriatrics, and behavioral health, Providence is transforming to a new healthcare delivery model that re-envisioning how we deliver care to meet the community's health needs and can best contribute to building healthier communities.

About Dispensary of Hope

Dispensary of Hope is a Tennessee-licensed Charity Medication Distributor. Organized as a national collaborative effort of manufacturers, health systems, free clinics, and community charity pharmacies, Dispensary of Hope is hosted by and has been generously funded by Ascension and other partners. To learn how your pharmaceutical manufacturer can donate inventory, or to locate a participating clinic or pharmacy, visit www.dispensaryofhope.org.

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