

July 14, 2023

Dear Patients,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I will be closing my practice August 31, 2023. I am deeply sorry that this transition has to happen so quickly. I had been planning a gradual transition into retirement but my hand has been forced by my new diagnosis of breast cancer.

Caring for my patients has been a great joy in my life. Many of you have been with me for over 25 years. We have seen each other through many changes and it has been a privilege to be part of your lives. I will miss you. This sudden closing will not allow many of us to say good-bye in person but please feel free to write.

I will see patients until the end of July. I will be changing my schedule for this time to address the needs of my most ill patients. All appointments with me after the end of July will be canceled. Dr Hearst will cover for my patients for the month of August as he has done when I am on vacation. He will then only be available for urgent concerns and prescription refills until the office closes at the end of October. By November, we expect you to have connected with a new health care provider.

Dr Hearst will continue to see his own patients, as usual, until the end of October. He will be notifying his patients of his retirement plans in a separate letter. He will be covering my patients temporarily, but will not be able to take on any new patients.

We will need your written permission to release your medical records. Once you have selected your new primary care provider, please complete the enclosed record release form. When we receive that form, we will mail your records to the address you provide. After the office has closed, your medical records will continue to be stored for you and be available on written request using the same record request form.

As you are probably are aware, the availability of medical providers in our community is limited. I have included a list of medical practices here and in nearby communities that are taking new patients. Unfortunately, you may need to sign up with a provider that is not in an ideal location for you.

All of the information in this letter, as well as the record release form, is available on our website: [www.WoodandHearstMD.net](http://www.WoodandHearstMD.net)

I want to thank you for trusting me to be your doctor all these years. I hope this transition goes as smoothly as possible for you.

Wishing you good health and happiness,

Avery Wood MD