



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Local Orthopedics and Spine Surgery Services**

PARK RAPIDS, MN (October 5, 2016) – Dr. Brennen Smith, CHI St. Joseph's Health orthopedic surgeon, joined the hospital to lead the Orthopedic & Spine Surgery services team in September, bringing inpatient, outpatient, and trauma-related orthopedic and spine surgery services to the area on a full-time basis.

After receiving his medical degree from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completing an internship and residency at Grant Medical Center–Ohio Health located in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Brennen Smith's love for orthopedics and spinal surgical care led him to complete a fellowship in spinal surgery at New Albany Surgery Center in New Albany, Ohio. Eventually, that path led him to Park Rapids and CHI St. Joseph's Health.

Park Rapids residents asked, and CHI St. Joseph's Health answered: You no longer have to leave the region for specialty spine surgery or travel outside the community for orthopedic surgical services.

"Our patients have needed local access to orthopedic services for a long time, and our research shows there is a significant demand for these services, as the communities we serve are very active," says Ben Koppelman, CHI St. Joseph's Health President. "We are excited to be able to offer these services to our patients."

Until now, if you needed major orthopedic surgery, you would have to travel out of the area. If you needed spine surgery, you had to travel at least an hour and a half to

receive it, because there were no spine surgical services available north of St. Cloud or west of Duluth.

“Now, you can receive care at your hometown hospital from a local surgeon,” Dr. Brennen Smith says. “It’s ideal for patients to be able to return home to recover, and when the procedure is done locally, that is possible.”

If you need orthopedic or spine care, consider the range of services Dr. Brennen Smith provides, including:

- **Carpal tunnel and trigger finger synovectomy**—A procedure in which inflamed joint tissue in the hand and/or wrist is removed
- **Cervical disc replacement**—A procedure in which damaged or degenerative cervical discs are removed and replaced with an artificial disc device
- **Cervical and lumbar fusions**—A procedure in which vertebrae in the lower (lumbar) part or upper (cervical) part of the spine are permanently joined together
- **Knee arthroscopy**—A procedure in which an orthopedic surgeon uses an arthroscope, a tiny camera, to examine and repair the tissues inside or around the knee joint
- **Lumbar discectomy**—A procedure in which the discs, or the cushiony support in the spine, are all or partly removed
- **Shoulder arthroscopy**—A procedure in which an orthopedic surgeon uses an arthroscope to examine and repair the tissues inside or around the shoulder joint
- **Total hip, knee, and shoulder** joint replacements
- **Adult fracture surgery** of the upper and lower extremities

“Being able to offer this wide array of services means we’ll be able to keep you moving and living pain free and get you on a path to faster recovery. Furthermore, having these services available full time means we’ll be able to invest in more

advanced imaging technologies and offer even more to the community” says Dr. Brennen Smith.

Having major orthopedic surgery close to home benefits both patients and their loved ones.

To learn more about how CHI St. Joseph’s Health Orthopedic & Spine Surgery services can help you move and live pain free or to schedule an appointment, call **218.616.3700**. No referral needed for general orthopedics.

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Brennen Smith, DO, CHI St. Joseph’s Health Orthopedic Surgeon

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**About CHI St. Joseph’s Health**

*CHI St. Joseph’s Health is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving communities in Hubbard, Becker, Cass and Wadena Counties since 1946. In recent years, CHI St. Joseph’s Health’s award-winning teams received several national honors including: The Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in surgery; Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, HealthStrong; WomenCertified’s America’s Best Hospitals Women’s Choice Award in obstetrics; and the Studer Group Fire Starter Healthcare Organization of the Month among other national, regional and state recognitions.*

**About CHI**

*Catholic Health Initiatives, a nonprofit, faith-based health system formed in 1996 through the consolidation of four Catholic health systems, expresses its mission each day by creating and nurturing healthy communities in the hundreds of sites across the nation where we provide care. The nation’s third-largest nonprofit health system, Englewood, Colorado-based CHI operates in 18 states and comprises 103 hospitals, including four academic health centers and major teaching hospitals as well as 30 critical-access facilities; community health-services organizations; accredited nursing colleges; home-health agencies; living communities; and other facilities and services that span the inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. In fiscal year 2015, CHI provided almost \$970 million in charity care and community benefit - an 8% increase over the previous year -- for programs and services for the poor, free clinics, education and research. Charity care and community benefit totaled more than \$1.6 billion with the inclusion of the unpaid costs of Medicare. The health system, which generated operating revenues of \$15.2*

*billion in fiscal year 2015, has total assets of approximately \$23 billion. Learn more at [www.catholichealthinitiatives.org](http://www.catholichealthinitiatives.org).*

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