



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2009

CONTACT: Sandi Marlowe
823-6262 (day)
223-6168 (cell)

smarlowe@livingstonhealthcare.org

LIVINGSTON HEALTHCARE EXPANDS TELEMEDICINE TO INCLUDE CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

Thanks to new stethoscope technology, Livingston HealthCare patients will soon be able to see a Billings Clinic cardiologist from an exam room at Park Clinic—using telemedicine. “The Eastern Montana Telemedicine Network (EMTN) is installing telephonic stethoscopes in all of our partner hospitals,” explains Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, RN, BSN, Telemedicine nurse at EMTN. “A stethoscope is an important tool for assessment and can be used by telemedicine providers to enable them to do a more complete patient exam.”

Telemedicine, a system that transmits real-time video, audio and medical images from one facility to another is making it possible for many patients to see specialists without leaving town. The addition of a telephonic stethoscope means a cardiologist can now see a patient and hear the heart and lungs as if they were in the room together.

In the second half of 2008, Livingston HealthCare used telemedicine in 34 patient visits for rheumatology, oncology and mental health. “I feel totally comfortable with how it works, and I think it has been a wonderful thing,” says June Doolittle, who sees Dr. Bruno Oliveira, a rheumatologist at Billings Clinic, using telemedicine.

“Patients who live in communities like Livingston face many challenges when accessing specialty medical services,” says Sam Pleshar, CEO Livingston HealthCare. “With the addition of this new component, we will be able to continue to expand the services we can offer to help patient get specialty care without leaving town.”

For more about Livingston HealthCare, visit www.livingstonhealthcare.org.

###