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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

HEALTH DIVISION ISSUES CEASE OPERATIONS LETTER to LAS VEGAS CLINIC PERFORMING UNLICENSED SURGERIES

(Carson City, NV) – The Nevada State Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance today delivered a cease operations letter to a Las Vegas clinic performing surgeries without a license. The letter was delivered to the Clinica de Mujeres at 3700 E. Charleston Blvd., which is owned by Dr. Vickie Mazzorana.

After receiving a complaint that the clinic was performing abortions in an unsafe environment, inspectors with the bureau entered the clinic today and found medical equipment, medications and hand-out literature consistent with the complaint, along with various infection control deficiencies, including breaches in sterile packaging and no manual or policy for a sterilization machine.

Although the facility appears to be licensed as a clinic by the City of Las Vegas, any facility performing surgeries for ambulatory patients is required to be licensed as an ambulatory surgery center by the State of Nevada, which Clinica de Mujeres is not.

Inspectors also believe the clinic was dispensing prescription medications without a license, and is forwarding that information to the Board of Pharmacy. Findings from the inspection will also be forwarded to the Board of Medical Examiners for review of the physician who owns the clinic, as well as the Attorney General’s office for review.

In recent weeks the Bureau has issued cease operations letters to three other facilities performing unlicensed surgeries. Health Division Administrator Richard Whitley said the recent spate of investigations at unlicensed surgery centers has revealed a common theme.

“Across the board, aside from performing surgeries without a license, each of the facilities we’ve ordered to cease operations has prominent infection control problems,” Whitley said. “Infection controls are in place to protect each individual patient, but also the public health in general. Rogue facilities that are not following procedures pose a tremendous risk to patients, and people should only receive care in appropriately licensed facilities.”

(more)



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The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation, enforcement and education. This mission is accomplished through the Bureau's two sections: Licensure and Certification, which regulates facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers and laboratories; and Radiological Health, which evaluates and responds to hazards from sources of ionizing radiation such as X-ray machines, sources of radiation to treat cancer and mammography units.

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