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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVE A TRIP. SEE A SPECIALIST IN QUINCY.

QUINCY, CA, FEBRUARY 3, 2011 - Plumas District Hospital (PDH) has established a telemedicine affiliation with U.C. Irvine Medical Center. The new link will help reduce the need for Plumas County patients to travel out-of-town to obtain neurology and pediatric psychiatry services.

Plumas District Hospital also maintains telemedicine links with other providers, including a Diabetic Educator who practices with Open Door Community Health Centers in Eureka, California and Dr. Dan Mandel, a rheumatologist with Arthritis and Rheumatology Care Center in Newport Beach.

The PDH Telemedicine program uses two-way video and secure high-speed internet connections to allow patients to consult with specialists at large medical centers. Plumas District Hospital has maintained a telemedicine affiliation with U.C. Davis Medical Center since the 1990s.

During a telemedicine consultation, the specialist actually hears the patient's medical history and current condition directly from the patient or their doctor or nurse practitioner. Special peripheral devices can be used, so that the doctor and the specialist can simultaneously see clear video images of a patient's skin, throat, vocal cords, skin, etc. The specialist can then diagnose and recommend treatment immediately.

According to the website www.telemedicine.com, the current top three uses for telemedicine are radiology, dermatology and psychiatry, although a variety of other services are available.

PDH offers other specialties via telemedicine: Dermatology (for skin disorders), Otolaryngology (for ear, nose and throat), Rheumatology (for joint and autoimmune disorders), Endocrinology (for hormone and glandular disorders), Hepatology (Liver Diseases), Neurology (Nervous system – brain, spinal cord and nerves), Psychiatry, Pediatrics and a Diabetic Educator.

Patients should ask their Primary Care Provider for more information about telemedicine, available specialties or how to set an appointment. More information is also available by calling PDH Telemedicine Coordinator, Krista Davis at 283-7133.