

WHATS NEW IN SAN FELIPE MEDICAL SERVICES

Aug. 25, 2010 (rev 15 October 2010)

An interview with Antonio Alvarez, M. D. who is the new Medical Director for Hospital Buen Pastor.

San Felipe NOW has a physician who is a specialist and trained in Urgenciologo (Urgent Care) medicine.

Hospital Buen Pastor began service to the community approximately 1 year ago, and is located in the Los Arcos neighborhood of San Felipe. Hospital Buen Pastor is the only currently functioning hospital in San Felipe. The facility is staffed with the following specialties: 2 General Medical doctors, 1 Pediatric doctor, 1 Gynecologist, 1 Orthopedists (the former SCORE INTERNATIONAL Orthopedic doctor), and 1 Urgent Care doctor.

Dr. J. Antonio Alvarez became the Medical Director of Hospital Buen Pastor about one month ago. He is from Durango, Durango, Mexico, the 4th largest state in Mexico with a population of approximately 1.5 million residents. Dr. Alvarez medical specialty is Urgent Care medicine, such as heart attacks, and strokes. He holds the Mexican health communities designation as an Urgent Care physician and was a teaching doctor in Urgent Care medicine in Durango which is known nationally and even internationally as it is "the land of the scorpions" due to the many species of scorpions in the state.

Hospital Buen Pastor is open 24 hours, 7 days per week. **The phone number 577-0391** is answered during and after hours by a receptionist. In the case of a medical emergency, she will contact the on-call doctor to meet the patient at the hospital. All of the staff doctors are on-call on an as need basis.

The hospital is equipped with 5 inpatient beds, X-ray machine, Delivery room, and Outpatient services. The facility can set broken bones, provide baby deliveries, and pediatric care, and the general medical needs of the local population. The hospital has 2 ambulances. Due to the high cost and short "shelf life" of certain medicines used in the treatment of heart attacks, the defined role of this hospital and staff is to stabilize and transport to a Mexicali hospital.

Pathology services are in Mexicali and there currently exists no pharmacy at the hospital, but Dr. Alvarez plans to change that in the future, when funding will allow.

Dr. Alvarez clarified the new rules in Mexico for antibiotics and other drugs. They are no longer available "over the counter." A doctors prescription is now required for most drugs including antibiotics.

The doctors at the hospital Buen Pastor are: Dr. Alvarez, Urgenciologo, Dra. Anel Becerra, GYN, Dr. Garcia, Ortopedista, Dr. Palma, Medico General, Dr. Rangel, Peditra, and Dr. Saucedo, Medico General.