



THE TAOS NEWS

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Holy Cross Hospital suspends admission of pediatric inpatients for six-eight weeks

Holy Cross Hospital has temporarily suspended admission of pediatric inpatients.

"If a patient comes to our emergency department, they'll be taken care of completely," Chief Medical Officer Dr. Loretta Ortiz y Pino explained Tuesday (Aug. 5).

The labor and delivery department remains open, she noted, but said young children requiring inpatient care may be transferred elsewhere.

The move is temporary and comes after a local pediatrician with a private practice informed the hospital she would stop covering call for inpatient pediatric patients this month, Dr. Ortiz y Pino said.

The hospital typically has few pediatric inpatients during the summertime, she added.

The remainder of the season will allow the hospital time to implement a new plan for covering calls, according to Dr. Ortiz y Pino, who anticipated pediatric patients will be admitted again in six to eight weeks.

It is unlikely the hospital will hire a physician to cover call for pediatric inpatients, she explained, noting a shortage of physicians and the increasing rarity of pediatricians covering call in rural hospitals.

The hospital hopes to hire two nurse practitioners to fill the need, Dr. Ortiz y Pino said.

— *Taos News staff*