

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 19-11**

DETERMINING THAT THE CLOSURE OF ST. MARY'S SPINE CENTER WILL NOT HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Medical Center, a non-profit hospital and a part of Dignity Health, is an acute care hospital in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, On April 29, 2019, St. Mary's notified the Health Commission of its plan to close the Spine Center by July 31st, 2019; and

WHEREAS, To be in compliance with the Community Health Care Planning Ordinance (Proposition Q), private hospitals in San Francisco are required to notify the Health Commission 90 days prior to service reductions or lease, sales or transfers of management; and

WHEREAS, The Spine Center is a 1206(d) licensed outpatient clinic jointly operated by St. Mary's and a single physician practice, the SF Spine Group; and

WHEREAS, The Spine Center is known as San Francisco's premier Spine Center; and

WHEREAS, The Spine Center sees an average of approximately 1,800 patients per year; and

WHEREAS, In March 2019, the SF Spine Group notified St. Mary's that it will no longer staff the Spine Center and will be moving their physician practice to a private office leased by and located on St. Mary's Medical Center campus; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's is unable to provide ongoing physician staffing for the Spine Center which has necessitated its closure; and

WHEREAS, The SF Spine Group will continue to practice on St. Mary's Medical Center campus and will provide the same level of care to the same number of patients, specifically:

- The Group will carry over the same insurance contracts and will continue to accept patients from the current payor mix including Medi-Cal,
- The Group will maintain the capacity/volume of patients seen,
- The Group plans to sustain the current levels of services,
- The Group will continue outpatient spine services and continuity of care to existing patients,
- The Group will still be available to the community in an on-SMMC campus medical office,
- Orthopedic support will continue to be provided in a clinic setting in the Sister Mary Philippa Clinic (a separate 1206(d) outpatient clinic with comprehensive services); and

WHEREAS, There is not an anticipated interruption or change in health care services provided to previous or current patients of the Spine Center; and

WHEREAS, It is not known whether the SF Spine Group will retain all St. Mary's non-physician employees in the new clinic; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's will attempt to re-assign affected employees and mitigate any lay-offs; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Proposition Q, the San Francisco Health Commission held public hearings on July 16, 2019 and August 6, 2019; and

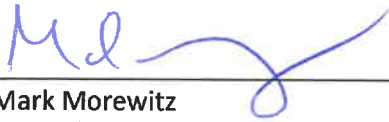
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Contingent upon the SF Spine Group maintaining the level of care currently provided through the Spine Center at the new outpatient clinic; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, On the condition that the closure of the Spine Center alongside the opening of the SF Spine Group's clinic at St. Mary's Medical Center will not cause a reduction or alteration of health services currently provided in the City of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, The closure of the Spine Center at St. Mary's Medical Center will not have a detrimental impact on the health care services in the community; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission requests that St. Mary's Medical Center report final hiring decisions and information on affected employees back to the Commission.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of August 6, 2019 adopted the foregoing resolution.



Mark Morewitz
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission