

Partnering to provide care in South County SVMHS Family Health and Wellness Center



“...I think these partnerships are the thing of the future—doctors and hospitals working together for the benefit of the patient.”

—Christine Ponzio, MD

In order to address the growing need for primary care in south Monterey County, Salinas Valley Memorial is teaming up with Christine Ponzio, MD to open a new health center in Gonzales. The 6,000 square foot, state-of-the-art medical facility will break ground this fall and open next summer, offering family medicine and some urgent care.

Dr. Ponzio’s connection to SVMHS goes back to her earliest days when she was born at the hospital. She grew up in nearby Soledad, finished medical school in 1981 at UC San Diego School of Medicine, and completed her internship at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics and her residency at San Bernardino County Medical Center. Instead of practicing medicine in a metropolitan area, Dr. Ponzio decided to return to her roots, preferring to provide care to the people she grew up with, and the many new residents coming to south Monterey County.

A board certified family practice physician, Dr. Ponzio has been in private practice in Gonzales since 1984, and has had privileges at SVMHS for almost 30 years. “I’m excited about the new clinic, and I think these partnerships are the thing of the future—doctors and hospitals working together for the benefit of the patient.”

She is currently recruiting a second primary care physician to assist with an ever-growing caseload. Dr. Ponzio says the plan is to eventually have up to five health care providers at the facility. ☒

