

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Ruby Valley Hospital Adds Occupational Therapy Services

The Physical Therapy Department at the Ruby Valley Hospital recently expanded their services to include Occupational Therapy. Heidi Gleason, OTR/L, has recently joined to the Department's staff and is helping patients with their occupational therapy concerns. "Bringing Heidi on-board really helps us address functional issues in rehabilitation that might not be as well served by traditional physical therapy techniques," says CEO, John Semingson. Heidi's background includes extensive experience in both neurological and orthopedic therapies.

Occupational therapy isn't just for work related injuries. The occupational therapist helps patients to resolve a wide range of needs at home and work following an injury, surgery or debilitating event such as a stroke. Their focus is the functional needs of daily life such as self-care, family care, getting to work and regaining the skills needed to return to work. "Occupational therapy includes a behavioral spin on the medical model," says Heidi. "The occupational therapist and physical therapist complement each other and frequently work together to help the patient manage the activities of daily living while strengthening their body to a fully functional level." Occupational therapists are trained in observation and analysis skills, and problem solving to identify the source of functional problems and develop effective solutions.

Originally from North Dakota, Heidi was determined to move to Montana after frequent visits to her brother in Bozeman. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of North Dakota, School of Medicine. Following graduation, Heidi headed west to complete her internship at Columbus Hospital (now Benefis) in Great Falls and St. Patrick's

Hospital in Missoula. She was the Clinical Supervisor at St. Vincent's in Billings for nearly nine years. Heidi has also worked at Freestone Rehabilitation in Bozeman and Barrett Hospital.

Heidi and her husband became enchanted with the beauty of Southwest Montana and decided to make their home in Dillon in 2011. When she's not working with patients, Heidi is very busy with her two young sons.

If you would like to arrange an appointment with Heidi, please contact Cindy Crismore at the Ruby Valley Hospital's Physical Therapy Department at (406) 842-5081. Cindy will coordinate an appointment for you.

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