



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Introducing the Prevea Health Valve Clinic**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN BAY, Wis. —*August, 3 2009*— In July, Prevea Health opened a new and innovative service for patients with heart murmurs or known valve disease. Introducing the *Prevea Health Valve Clinic*, located at St. Vincent Hospital, 835 S. Van Buren St. Any adult with a heart murmur or known valve disease is invited to attend the clinic for initial assessment and continuous monitoring of their condition over time. The valve clinic focuses on the premise that early evaluation, close surveillance and timely treatment of valve disease can preserve heart function, reduce symptoms and ultimately lead to improved quality of life. So far, the clinic is doing well.

Prevea Health’s Board Certified Cardiologists and Cardiothoracic surgeons are experts in the area of valve disease and are the first in the area to establish a dedicated clinic centered on valve disease. The clinic utilizes up-to-date recommendations from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. Additionally, the clinic employs the use of echocardiography that is nationally accredited in quality, safety and accuracy to help visualize the valves.

“Historically, treatment for valve disease wasn’t considered until patients became limited by their symptoms, often because the available treatments were high-risk and frequently associated with complications,” said Dr. John Seccombe, one of Prevea’s Heart & Vascular Care specialists who are part of the clinic. “Over the past several years, we have learned a great deal about heart and valve disease. One important lesson is that the heart can start to suffer irreversible damage *before* it’s obvious to the patient. Also, modern treatments for severe heart valve disease carry a lower risk and have fewer complications. So the best outcome for those patients who develop a severe form of valve disease is to treat them before there’s irreversible damage to the heart, and that means catching it before patients become limited by

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symptoms. The best way to do that is to monitor these conditions over time, and that's the concept of the valve clinic."

Any adult having a heart murmur or known to have valve disease is primary candidate for receiving care at the valve clinic. Appointments take approximately two hours and involve:

- Obtaining a comprehensive medical history
- A physical examination
- An echocardiogram (if one hasn't been done already)
- Meeting with one of Prevea's Board Certified Cardiologists or Cardiothoracic Surgeons to review echocardiogram results and together making a plan of care, so patients leave knowing exactly how they are doing, what to do next and when.

The valve clinic is located on the first floor of St. Vincent Hospital in the Prevea Heart & Vascular Clinic. The clinic is held on the first and third Wednesday of each month by appointment between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. To make an appointment, patients should call (920) 884-5460.

Prevea Health's mission is to take care of people with passion, pride, and respect. Founded in 1996, Prevea Health partners with St. Mary's and St. Vincent Hospitals in Green Bay, and St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan to provide access to more than 200 providers in over 50 specialty areas. Prevea's 18 locations are throughout metropolitan Green Bay and in Marinette, Oconto, Plymouth, Pulaski, Seymour, Sheboygan and Sturgeon Bay. Visit [www.prevea.com](http://www.prevea.com) for more information.

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