



Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada

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Open Letter to Our Patients and the People of Southern Nevada

Recent events at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada are causing great concern to our patients and the community at large.

First, I want to express my deepest sympathy to all our patients and their families for the fear and uncertainty that naturally arises from this situation. The trust we have spent years building in this community has been challenged by the discovery that some of our patients may have been exposed to blood-borne diseases at our facility. In cooperation with the Southern Nevada Health District and other health agencies and officials, we have carefully reviewed our procedures and implemented the changes they recommended.

We are also working with third-party payers to be sure all our patients who need to be tested are, and that the costs are completely covered.

For those who are uninsured, a foundation is being set up to cover the cost associated with their tests. You will learn more about this in the days to come.

I want to thank the Southern Nevada Health District for bringing this issue to our attention and for its help in resolving it. I am also grateful to the health district for clarifying erroneous news reports about syringe re-use at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada. The evidence does not support that syringes or needles were ever re-used from patient to patient at the center.

At the same time and without making excuses, I think it's important for the public to know that the chances of contracting an infection at our center from 2004 through June 2007 were extremely low. Of the six cases reported, it appears one exposure took place in July 2007 and five on September 21, 2007. Regardless, if you were a patient at our facility, I encourage you to get tested.

Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dipak Desai