

Dear HFP client:

It is with mixed emotions that I write to announce to you - as sole owner and sole physician at Holistic Family Practice - that we will be closing our doors forever as of October 1st, 2017. This practice has enjoyed a nearly 45-year run, and I have spent 24 years of my medical career here. However, many impactful changes in the health care industry have occurred locally and nationwide in recent years, including shrinking insurance reimbursements, markedly rising overhead expenses, expanding and highly time-consuming regulatory changes (with much attendant paperwork and extra time required), along with major difficulties recruiting and retaining young physicians and mid-level providers in the private practice setting.

All of these factors have made it very difficult to simply keep up with the basic costs of running our practice. Indeed, some expenditures, like building maintenance (painting, carpentry, sidewalk repairs), have been placed on the back burner for years due to the cash shortfalls we have faced. These economic realities, coupled with the uncertainties of the future of private practice medicine, the lack of call partners, etc. have had tremendous impacts on my personal life. Therefore, I have arrived at this difficult decision.

Many patients have asked me whether I would move into a so-called "concierge" practice at this juncture. The answer is a definitive and final "no." The concierge model allows only those with significant financial means to access doctors who establish such practices. I believe that we physicians have an ethical obligation to be available to people from all socioeconomic levels. That has always been my practice approach, and I do not intend for that to change.

Fortunately, a new practice opportunity has become available to me in the local community. I will be joining North Shore Physicians Group at their new facility at 414 Haverhill Street (Route 133), Rowley. I will be working with a reputable and well-established group of physicians and mid-level providers, who treat all ages of patients, from infants on up, and who accept most insurances and health plans. North Shore Physicians Group is affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital and its Partners Health Care satellite facilities. The practice location includes on-site x-ray, mammography, and bone densitometry, as well as opportunities for on-site consultations from visiting specialty care physicians. My first day on the job in Rowley is Monday, October 2nd. It is my great hope that those of you who wish to continue to maintain me as their physician, will choose to do so at the Rowley site.

Once again, I thank all of you for your many years of loyalty to me and to Holistic Family Practice. It has been a true privilege and honor serving you. I trust you will accept that my decision to close our doors is one made after much hard deliberation and with much heartache. Happily, I remain available to you henceforth in a different practice setting, and I hope to see and to serve many of you in Rowley for a long time to come.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan March". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Dr. Jonathan March