



For Immediate Release

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PROVIDENCE OPENING SECOND SITE FOR PATIENTS WITH DIZZINESS AND BALANCE DISORDERS

ORANGE, Calif., September 15, 2017 – Providence Speech and Hearing Center (Providence) is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its second **Orange County Fall Prevention and Balance Center™**. The new Center will be located inside Providence's audiology clinic at the **Hoag Health Center in Newport Beach** where specially-trained audiologists work to determine the root cause of a patient's imbalance, which is often presented as dizziness, and create a specialized treatment plan in collaboration with physical therapy.

The original Orange County Fall Prevention and Balance Center™ opened in 2011 and is located at Providence Speech and Hearing Center's flagship location in the city of Orange. With generous grant funding from the **Ueberroth Family Foundation** and the **George Hoag Family Foundation**, Providence is able to expand to a second location and deliver its critical diagnostic and treatment services to more patients in Orange County.

Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths, unintentional injuries, and hospital admissions for trauma. Falls can take a serious toll on an older person's quality of life and independence but can—and should—be preventable. At the Orange County Fall Prevention and Balance Center™, Providence's vestibular team uses state-of-the-art equipment to perform a complete vestibular evaluation to determine from where a patient's dizziness is coming. They run a series of tests to evaluate if the dizziness is caused by the inner ear or the brain.

The Center's complete vestibular evaluation includes:

- a full hearing test to look at the patient's eardrum and middle ear
- sensory organization testing, which looks at how well a patient can stand or walk in different scenarios
- a video head impulse test (v-HIT) to determine if there is an inner ear weakness, which ear might be the problem, and which part of the balance organ may not be functioning properly
- rotary chair evaluation, which evaluates eye movement in response to body movement and positioning
- videonystagmography (VNG), which helps determine if different postures or movements provoke dizziness and if both inner ear balance systems are functioning appropriately

The grand opening of the Orange County Fall Prevention and Balance Center™ in Newport Beach will take place during this year's Fall Prevention Awareness Week: September 24-30. The public is invited to a special celebration at the new location with a ribbon cutting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27.

"We are enormously grateful to the Ueberroth and George Hoag Family Foundations for their support of Providence, enabling us to expand the Fall Prevention and Balance Center into Newport Beach. After opening the first Center in Orange in 2011, we immediately saw an influx of patients needing the vestibular

services we provide. Now, we will be able to serve even more patients in need,” said **Linda H. Smith**, RN, BSN, PHN, Providence Speech and Hearing Center Chief Executive Officer. “The more patients we can help with balance disorders, the more we help to prevent falls and related trips to the emergency room, and ultimately improve their quality of life. The impact of this gift is exponentially larger than new equipment—it makes a vast difference for each patient who is benefitting from these services—and might even save a life.”

Providence Speech and Hearing Center continues to grow and serve more patients each day. In 2016, the organization completed 118,611 speech, language, and hearing appointments; 64% of those were for patients from low-income families. Community support helps ensure that no patient is turned away due to the inability to pay.

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About Providence Speech and Hearing Center

Providence was founded in 1965 to provide Audiology and Hearing Care and Speech-Language Pathology to all those in need, regardless of their ability to pay. What began in a single room at a local hospital has grown over the past 52 years to become one of the largest clinics of its kind in the country. Providence strives to achieve its mission of “*Enriching Life Through the Gifts of Speech and Hearing*” by continually providing the highest quality services in the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of speech, language, and hearing disorders for persons of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Today, Providence is the leading service provider to the speech and hearing impaired of Orange County, providing nearly 120,000 patient visits annually.

To find ways to donate, visit www.pshc.org/donate-now; for media inquiries or to volunteer, contact Kathy Corpuz at (949) 600-9967, or email kcorpuz@pshc.org.