



Managing the pain

MPC Big Rapids Pain Management Center staff looks to end pain in patients

By Brandon Fountain
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BIG RAPIDS — With a plan to assist people who live in chronic pain, Michigan Pain Consultants (MPC), 15044 220th Ave., in Big Rapids, has had their doors open for months now aiding those who need that help.

According to Nita Leosh, the director of clinical operations says the staff's main objective is to provide programs that effectively limit or end a patient's pain, but also focus on the patient themselves.

"Many of the patients have lived so long with their pain, that they don't know what it's like to spend a day without that pain," she said. "They have gone through surgeries and physical therapy but still have that pain.

"We hope to find a way to stop the pain."

MPC has locations throughout West Michigan. Previously, the Big Rapids area patients were treated by pain staff at Mecosta County Medical Center since 1999.

Leosh explained that prior to the Big Rapids office opening, many of the patients would arrive in Grand Rapids or other locations from as far away as Escanaba and other northern locations in Michigan.

"We still have people driving long distances for our procedures and service," she said.

The referral-based patients, find us as possibly their last chance to relieve their pain, Leosh noted.

"They've been told they're lying about the pain, whether it's to get out of work or to get disability," she said. "A lot of our patients have had to live with their pain for years. It also effects how they feel about themselves and their families and friends."

The center offers patient-based physical therapy, added Leosh. It is a referral-based group of patients who seek further pain remedy from MPC.

Dr. Steve Winston, during his 10-minute lunch break, noted that it's the patients who determine what procedures need to be done.

"It's really up to them," he said. "We just try to find out what's causing that pain and alleviate it for them."

For more information, call (231) 796-1500 or visit Michigan Pain Consultants on the Internet at www.michiganpain.com/.