

PRESS



RELEASE

INTERVENTIONAL PAIN CENTER | SPORTS & REGENERATIVE MEDICINE | DEPENDENCY TREATMENT

ALGONE CLOSING JUNEAU LOCATION

Provider resignation and lack of ancillary support force Algone to close its doors Juneau, A.K. – On September 30, 2017, Algone’s Juneau office will permanently close and no longer provide services for chronic pain patients.

The Juneau office has struggled for over two years to maintain a provider on-site for various reasons, including the sudden loss of Dr. Liam Walsh from Wasilla, Alaska in November 2015. For the past six months, Algone Juneau has relied on a single provider, Dr. Zachariah Chambers of Las Vegas, Nevada, to alternate between two weeks in Juneau and one week of telemedicine. While this functioned to serve patients for a period, it was never intended to be a long-term strategy.

“Algone’s treatment philosophy is progressive, and we often advocate for nontraditional therapies, which can make finding a provider that fits in our culture especially challenging. It was always our goal to find a full-time provider and it’s unfortunate we weren’t able to do that before Dr. Chambers gave his notice in July,” said Algone’s Chief Operating Officer, Kira Boyd of Palmer, Alaska.

In addition to the difficulty hiring a Juneau resident as a full-time provider, none of Algone’s providers have ever been granted any hospital privileges. Those privileges are necessary not only to provide care to Algone patients who are admitted to the hospital, but also to perform minor surgical interventional procedures, such as implantation of spinal cord stimulators and intrathecal pain pumps. Currently, residents of Southeastern Alaska must travel, at a minimum, to Anchorage, Alaska for these procedures.

Part of the credentialing process requires a Pain Management program at the hospital to outline core privileges. As of the last hospital correspondence Algone received in May 2017, the credentialing committee was still working to develop that program.

“It’s frustrating,” said Dr. Tom Grissom, founding partner and physician at Algone in Wasilla, Alaska. “We’re trying to be a part of the solution. There isn’t anyone else in Juneau doing what we have been trying to do. [Chronic pain patients] need specialists to help get their pain under control using more than just opioids. But we just couldn’t keep waiting for the ancillary support we need to get the job done.”

A letter was mailed to each Algone Juneau patient on August 8, 2017. This letter outlined the support Algone will provide to help ease the transition of care to other physicians as well as instructions on how to transfer records in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.

About Algone

Algone is a multidisciplinary facility offering medical services in Wasilla, Anchorage, and Juneau. Algone specializes in pain management, interventional treatment, regenerative medicine, and physical therapy. Algone is the only provider of the Regenexx stem cell protocol and DRG neuromodulation in Alaska.

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