



Centers for
Orthopaedics
Experience in Motion

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Walk-in Sports Medicine Clinics for Injured Athletes Launched

Saturday morning clinics in Portland and Saco provide access to specialists and less-costly alternative to emergency room visits for sports-related injuries

PORTLAND – OA Centers for Orthopaedics has established two new walk-in sports injury clinics, the first of their kind in Southern Maine. With the return of Friday night football, soccer and field hockey comes inevitable sports-related injuries associated with high impact, fast-paced field sports – and costly visits to the hospital emergency room.

To provide injured athletes with an alternative to the emergency room for treatment of bruises and fractures, OA Centers for Orthopaedics has established walk-in sports injury clinics at their Portland and Saco locations. Staffed by orthopedic sports medicine specialists, OA walk-in sports clinics are open every Saturday morning through October 31, 2009 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Athletes may walk in without an appointment to see a sports medicine doctor for their injury.

With high costs, potentially long waits and a likely referral from the emergency room doctor to an orthopedic sports medicine doctor for treatment and observation, a trip to the emergency room is not necessarily the best course of action, but alternatives have been lacking, especially in Maine.

“For the first time, injured athletes in Southern Maine now have an alternative to costly and time intensive emergency room visits,” says John Wipfler, CEO of the OA Centers for Orthopaedics. “These are the same physicians that take care of such teams as the U.S.

Men's Olympic Soccer team, the Portland Sea Dogs and many other professional, international, collegiate and high school athletes.”

According to Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, the cost of a typical emergency room visit in Maine ranges from \$250 to \$1,040, and sports-related injuries account for a significant percentage of those visits among children and teens. In fact, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reports that sports-related injuries – bruises and fractures – accounted for 22% of hospital emergency visits in U.S. children ages 5-17 in 2006, with teens five times more likely than younger children to need sports-related emergency room treatment. Ninety-nine percent of these sports sports-related emergency room visits were treated and released without hospitalization.

The new walk-in sports clinics are available at OA's Portland office, located at 33 Sewall Street in Portland, and at OA's Saco clinic located at 15 Lund Road at the OA Sports Center in Saco.

ABOUT OA CENTERS FOR ORTHOPAEDICS

Founded in 1982, OA Centers for Orthopaedics is the premier orthopaedic practice in Maine and one of the country's leading innovators in orthopaedics. OA's 23 physicians and surgeons are highly specialized in areas such as sports medicine; hand surgery; joint reconstruction of the hip, knee and shoulder; medical and surgical treatment of the spine; foot and ankle surgery; and complex fracture treatment. OA performs more orthopaedic procedures than any other practice in Maine, and some of the most sophisticated procedures in the nation. In 2007, US News & World Report ranked Maine Medical Center in the top 50 in the orthopaedics category. OA's very own Dr. George Babikian, Chairman of the Division of Orthopaedics, Dr. Raymond White, Chairman of Orthopaedic Trauma, and Dr. Brian McGrory, the Director of the MMC Joint Replacement Center, lead Maine Medical Center's capability in this category. OA is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC).

Headquartered in Portland, Maine, OA has satellite offices in Windham and Saco. OA— Experience in motion. For more information, please visit www.orthoassociates.com.

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