

Dear Patient,

April 26, 2010

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this letter to inform you that I must close my medical practice. My last day to see patients in my office will be May 28th. This has truly been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make. I know that my decision to leave Lubbock will greatly affect all of my patients, and that it will be difficult for many of you to find a new physician. I am so sorry for that. My hope and prayers are that it will work out for all of us positively.

A series of events have forced this change for me, but the two most prominent factors were the passage of the coming "healthcare reform" package and the slashing of Medicare reimbursement by 21.5% on April 1st this year. If the president and congress think that their plans for our healthcare system will in any way improve the care any of us receive, they are dead wrong. The ability of a solo-practitioner or even small group practices to survive in the coming business climate will soon be destroyed, and the best and the brightest among us will no longer look to medicine as a viable career. I *must* reposition myself professionally *now* to provide as much security for me and my family as I can. My deep regret is that I must do so at the expense of my practice here.

I have long been recruited by companies throughout the country but have never seriously considered any of their offers. None have provided an opportunity for both patient care and to expand my management skills. However, after weeks of consideration I have accepted an opportunity to lead the hospitalist program at the Medical Center of Plano, the most prestigious and reputable hospital in that portion of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. I will not only be caring for hospitalized patients, but also be able to put my MBA to use in a managerial and leadership role. From all appearances it is a job "made" for me.

Thank you for your years of dedication and faith in me. My relationship with my patients has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I would appreciate your prayers for me in this transition, and want you to know that you are all in my prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert L. Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert L Johnson MD