

Dr. Van Wahlgren will see patients on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. To make an appointment in the orthopedic specialty clinic call 308-352-7200.

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Patients requiring orthopedic surgery can now be operated on in Grant at Perkins County Health Services rather than traveling to another medical facility.

Dr. Van Wahlgren began practice at PCHS on Sept. 27 and will come twice each month. Depending on patient load, he could possibly come more frequently.



The surgeon was impressed with Perkins County's hospital and its employees.

"The people are what make it nice, but the physical plant is good too—Grant is lucky to have such a nice facility," said Dr. Wahlgren. "I hope to make a positive addition to the hospital, as I am close enough to see people when they need to be seen."

Wahlgren is a native of Gothenburg who is happy to be practicing in his home state.

"I left Nebraska to get an education, but it is great to be back in Nebraska!" he said. "The U.S. Army helped me with my education, for which I am eternally grateful. I like the people of Nebraska and to talk with them about the area— that is why I am happy to be in Nebraska. But the football helps also!"

Dr. Wahlgren's medical interests include general orthopedics, adult reconstructive surgery of hip and knee, arthroscopy and sports medicine, foot and ankle surgery, hand surgery, trauma and fractures.

"I hope to provide first rate orthopedic care to the patients of the area and do this with a friendly, neighborly way," said the surgeon.

Background/Education

Dr. Wahlgren's entire family lives in Nebraska. He has a brother in Grand Island and many cousins in the Gothenburg area.

He and his wife Kelly have two children, Johnathan in fifth grade and Staci who entered high school.

He enjoys woodworking and working on their home and car.

Other interests include military history, bird hunting and downhill skiing.

He entered the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., receiving a BS degree in 1974. He received his doctorate in 1979 from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

His internship and residency were at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas from 1980-87.

Dr. Wahlgren holds an American Board of Orthopedic Surgery license, has been a Fellow of American Academy Orthopedic Surgery since 1988, holds an active Nebraska license, is licensed with American Heart Association Basic Life Support and with Texas Worker's Compensation Commission List of Approved Spinal Surgeons.

He retired with the U.S. Military in 2004. He served with the U.S. Army Corps Engineers from 1974-76 and with the U.S. Army Medical Department from 1979-2006 in Texas, Korea, Heidelberg, Germany; and Iraq.

Hospital assignments include the Red Cedar Medical Center, Menomonie, Wisc., prior to moving to Nebraska to be closer to family.

He currently serves Ogallala Community Hospital Banner Health in Ogallala and Perkins County Hospital.