

Contact: Cynthia Scanlon
Manager of Marketing and
Communications
The Everett Clinic
(425) 304-1139

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2004

The Everett Clinic Installs Pharmacy Robot

Everett, WA—The pharmacy staff of the Everett Clinic pharmacy in Everett is now using the SP 200 Robotic Prescription Dispensing System from ScriptPro to automate its prescription dispensing process.

The SP 200 “robot” counts pills, fills vials, and labels prescriptions, using advanced robotics and automation. With ScriptPro automation, The Everett Clinic pharmacists have more time to answer questions and counsel their patients.

“In moving to an automated prescription dispensing process, The Everett Clinic pharmacists will have more time for personalized consulting with our patients,” says Teri Ferreira, Director of Retail Pharmacy. The robotic system will also ensure prescription accuracy and shorter wait times for our patients.”

How does the robot work? Once a prescription is entered into the pharmacy computer system, the robotic arm of the SP 200 determines the correct vial from three sizes. Using bar code scanning, it verifies the location of the drug among 180 universal dispensing cells, holds the vial, while automatically counting tablets or capsules of all shapes and sizes from the cells, into the container. There is no drug cross-contamination. The arm then places the uncapped vial on a short conveyor belt and the prescription and auxiliary labels are applied. A pharmacist makes the final check for complete accuracy, comparing the pills in the vial with a computer screen image of the drug.

“The system counts and fills up to 100 prescriptions per hour, so our patients get their medications promptly, even during peak pharmacy hours,” says Ferreira. “In its first day of operation, the robot dispensed 11,000 pills.”

The Clinic’s team of more than 200 physicians provides thirty diverse specialty care services in addition to primary care services. The Everett Clinic is considered one of the most successful health care providers in Washington State and is often recognized nationally for its innovative approach to patient care and medicine, which has included articles in *The New York Times* and *US News & World Report*. The Everett Clinic can be found at www.everettclinic.com.