

New Providers Expand Orthopedic Care at Artesia General

Artesia General Hospital welcomes Marshall Baca, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, to its growing family of physicians who provide specialty services to Artesia and the surrounding area. Dr. Baca and Darla Bannister, RN, MSN, ACNP, a nurse practitioner who partners with him, offer a full complement of orthopedic treatments and procedures.

Treating Weekend Warriors and Aging Joints

“Many of the cases we see fall into one of two categories,” Dr. Baca explains. “In the younger population, we often treat injuries from sports and activities, such as shoulder and elbow injuries, tears of the meniscus (cartilage in the knee) or ACL injuries.” The ACL — anterior cruciate ligament — is a ligament that keeps the shin bone in place.

“Many of these procedures can be done as arthroscopic surgeries,” he adds. Arthroscopic surgery requires only small incisions. A tiny camera and miniature surgical instruments are inserted through the incisions and used to complete the procedure.

“The other category is minimally invasive total knee or hip replacements in an older population with degenerative

joint disease,” he says. “This is a type of surgery that has not previously been available in Artesia, so we’re excited about offering it in this community. So far, we’ve been doing a couple of joint replacement surgeries a week. It can be life-changing for many people.”

Happy to Be in Artesia

“Dr. Baca and I have worked together for almost eight years,” Darla says. “We have a practice in Carlsbad, and also see patients and do surgeries in Artesia three days a week. The environment at Artesia General Hospital is so warm. People are very welcoming and go out of their way to help. Patient-focused care makes our jobs easier.”

Dr. Baca agrees with that assessment, adding, “I like that it’s a not-for-profit hospital, which changes the emphasis to better patient care as opposed to improving yield for stockholders.”

On a Personal Note

Dr. Baca was drawn to a career in orthopedics after getting involved with the Shriners while he was in medical school. He’s a graduate of the University of Texas, Galveston, and completed his medical training at Texas A&M University and Scott and White Memorial Hospital. He is fellowship-



Dr. Marshall Baca is shown applying a wrist splint.

trained in pediatric orthopedics from Baylor College of Medicine.

He is still involved with the Shriners, traveling to Houston once a month to donate his time performing surgery. He is also the team physician for Carlsbad High School, a position he has held for more than a decade.

Darla says she “absolutely loves” orthopedics. “It’s a very rewarding field. You see people get better quickly,” she says. Darla graduated from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque with an M.S. and Honors in the acute care nurse practitioners program. She is board certified with the American College of Nurse Practitioners and has 20 years of medical experience with orthopedics as her focus.



Darla Bannister,
RN, MSN, ACNP

**To schedule an appointment with
Dr. Baca or Darla Bannister, please call
(575) 748-8301.**