

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) extends a welcome to all patients of the Richardton Clinic, which JMHCC is operating as of July 1.

Based in Elgin, JMHCC is a critical access hospital serving the region. It also operates clinics in Elgin and Glen Ullin.

“We are excited about the opportunity to serve patients in the Richardton area,” said JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller. “This will be beneficial to patients, as JMHCC will be able to provide quality care, add more services and provide a stable clinic for the community and surrounding area.”

JMHCC offers medical services through its 24-hour emergency department in Elgin, primary care and clinic services. It also offers clinical lab services, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitation services.

Under JMHCC, Richardton Clinic patients will have access to the laboratory services in Elgin, with same-day results. The clinic will also have the support of the JMHCC business office, management staff, and other essential staff.

The clinic will continue with its current staff, including Jolene Engelhart, FNP, Becky Wolf, RN, and Susan Meier, clinic receptionist. Dr. Alan Lindemann will see patients on Tuesdays at the Richardton Clinic also. The clinic will be open Monday through Thursday, as it has in the past. Appointments may be made by calling 974-3372.

The Richardton Clinic was transitioned from the Richardton Health Center, which will continue to operate the nursing home in Richardton, to JMHCC following discussions which began last spring.

The board of directors of the Richardton Health Center approached JMHCC after Dr. Lindemann, the medical director and one of two doctors who provide care at JMHCC, had started to provide locum care in Richardton. The board was pursuing finding a sustainable option for the clinic after dissolving its relationship with its current management company.

“Due to Medicare reimbursement practices, a provider-based clinic affiliated with a critical access hospital can be much more sustainable,” Stoller explained. “And we wanted to do what’s right by being neighborly and help to continue to offer services to Richardton area patients.”

The reimbursement formula will now allow the Richardton Clinic to be more sustainable, said Clare Messmer, chair of the Richardton Health Center board of directors.

“This will be a positive thing for the community because JMHCC has people experienced with operating other clinics,” Messmer said. “We will have quicker lab results and more backup staff to fill in for the provider.”

“The Richardton Clinic transferring ownership, leadership and medical staff to JMHCC will allow Richardton area residents access to the same great care provided in our Glen Ullin and Elgin clinics,” said Leslie Niederman, chair of the

JMHCC board of directors. “Because JMHCC was approached by the Richardton Clinic board of directors shows they have faith in JMHCC. The JMHCC board of directors and administration ensure area residents this transition will go as smooth as possible.”

During the transition, JMHCC will be incorporating patient records into its system, so a full history on every patient will need to be completed.

“Please allow extra time during your appointment to help us enter your information into the system,” Stoller said. “We ask for your patience and understanding in this process.”

In the future, JMHCC hopes to expand the services offered in Richardton. JMHCC will begin sharing a newsletter in the Richardton area to keep patients updated on new services and news from the Richardton Clinic.