

FAQ Patients First Community Hospital

Why did Patients First Health Care decide to establish the non-profit company, Patients First Community Hospital, to build a new community hospital?

We recognize that this community deserves a local hospital that will allow patients to choose where they receive their care and from whom. We are dedicated to putting patients first and we do not believe that patients should have to choose between their local hospital and their trusted doctors. The fact is: our patients have continually asked us to build our own hospital and, in light of the fact that some of our doctors are prevented from seeing their own patients at the other local hospital, it was a perfect time to establish this commitment with our community.

We believe patients should be able to see the doctor of their choice at the facility of their choice. That is why we have chosen to build a hospital where all doctors will be welcome to see and treat patients, regardless of their other affiliations.

Where will Patients First Community Hospital be located?

Patients First Community Hospital will be located on our existing Washington, MO, campus at the address 911 Patients First Drive. The hospital will be a new addition to the east side of our building.

How big is the hospital going to be?

Patients First Community Hospital will have three overnight stay beds. We will evaluate any further expansions based on the needs of our patients.

Why only three beds?

Starting with only three beds gives us an opportunity to grow with the needs of our patients.

Will there be an ER?

Yes. State law dictates that for licensure, a hospital must have a full-service, 24/7 staffed emergency room.

Why now?

In light of the new health care reform bill and the removal of our cardiologists from the staff at the local hospital, we need to ensure our patients continue to get the highest-quality, state-of-the-art care that has become the hallmark of Patients First.



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Who will be heading up the hospital project?

We have a wonderful resource in our CEO, Joseph Gubbels. Before taking over the helm at Patients First, Mr. Gubbels completed his degree in Hospital Administration at SLU and then worked at St. John's Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma.

When will construction begin?

At this point, we have no definitive start date. We need to receive an exemption from the state CON committee. We will be presenting to the committee on May 10th.

When will the project be completed?

We are projecting that the hospital will be completed by winter 2010. Paric Corporation has partnered with us on the construction.

Will we ever expand to more beds?

We will evaluate the needs of our communities and make that determination when it is required.

What services will be offered at the hospital?

We will be using the hospital for observation and cardiology evaluations.

Will the ER be a trauma center?

No.

How will this move affect St. John's Mercy Hospital?

We can't speak for St. John's. We do know how it will affect our patients. Having an accessible community hospital where our patients can see the doctors they choose is good for both our patients and our community.

Will you allow St. John's doctors access to your hospital?

Yes. Any doctor that has the proper credentials can be on staff at Patients First Community Hospital.

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What is the Patients First Community Hospital Foundation?

We have always and will continue to provide care at low or no cost to patients in need. We are formalizing that work by creating the Patients First Community Hospital Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation to provide care for the un- or under-insured.

When will the clinic be open and where will it be located?

We are in the planning stages. We need to evaluate which areas have the greatest need and then we will decide on a location.