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Cooper Green Mercy to transition to urgent and primary care facility

BIRMINGHAM, AL (December 10, 2012) - The Jefferson Health System will transition Cooper Green Mercy Hospital to an urgent care facility effective January 1, 2013. Jefferson County CEO Tony Petelos and his staff made the announcement during an update to commissioners today on the strategic transformation of the Sixth Avenue South facility to an effective and sustainable 21st century healthcare provider.

Jefferson County will voluntarily surrender the acute care hospital license for Cooper Green Mercy at the close of the business day on December 31, 2012. The move will discontinue inpatient and emergency room services at Cooper Green Mercy.

Effective January 1, 2013, the urgent care center will be open daily (Monday-Sunday) from 8am – midnight. All outpatient clinics will continue to operate at Cooper Green Mercy the same way they do now.

“This is an important strategic decision,” Petelos says. “We are transforming an unsustainable 40 year old system into an accessible, efficient 21st century healthcare provider.”

Cooper Green Mercy will continue to manage normal operations and care of the inpatient population through December. During this time, Cooper Green Mercy will oversee the placement of all acute care patients ahead of the January 1st transition. The County is working with several healthcare providers in Jefferson County to assist in the transition of patients in need of hospitalization.

“The number of acute care patients has steadily declined over the years creating an unsustainable situation,” Petelos says. “Converting Cooper Green Mercy to an urgent and primary care facility will provide appropriate and efficient healthcare and reinforce Jefferson County’s commitment to sustainable healthcare for the future.”

Cooper Green Mercy is licensed to operate 319 beds. The hospital currently operates 103 beds, however the average daily census through October 2012 has been about 40 patients.

The transition will mean a reduction of approximately 200 positions.

Residents are encouraged to keep their appointments with outpatient clinics at the Sixth Avenue South facility. If residents are unable to keep those appointments, they are encouraged to call 930.3350 to reschedule.

More information about the transition can be found at CooperGreenFuture.com.

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