



## NEWS MEDIA FACT SHEET WOODLAND MEDICAL CENTER TRANSITION

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On June 1, 2009 the leadership of the Healthcare Authority of Cullman County announced that Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) signed an asset purchase agreement to acquire Woodland Medical Center (Woodland).

As of July 15, CRMC has decided to cease operations at Woodland and consolidate certain operations to CRMC. CRMC will explore the best future use of the Woodland campus, including healthcare services. The Woodland facility will no longer operate as a medical and surgical acute care hospital after the transaction is complete.

Below is information of importance to the general public in the CRMC and Woodland service areas regarding the transition:

- On July 15, Woodland will no longer provide services to patients. Beginning July 1 and continuing through July 15, Woodland and CRMC will work together to prepare Woodland for closure. Each facility has designated a transition coordinator to oversee the effort and make it as smooth a transition as possible.
- Woodland's Emergency Department will stop operating and will no longer admit new patients effective July 1. EMS will be alerted to take emergency patients to CRMC or the nearest medical facility.
- Also on July 1, Woodland's clinical laboratory, pharmacy and radiology services will cease accepting outside referrals for services. During the transition period of July 1 to July 15, those services will remain in operation, but only provide services to Woodland's inpatients admitted prior to July 1 or who are otherwise in a current course of treatment at Woodland as of that date.
- If any patients remain at Woodland on July 15, those patients will be transferred to the healthcare facility selected by the patient and his or her attending physician. CRMC will use its ambulance service to transfer any remaining patients to the appropriate facility.

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In addition to notifications to the Alabama Department of Public Health and other state regulatory officials and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Woodland and CRMC are working together to notify the community and patients of the transition process, including the following actions:

#### Notification:

- Woodland is working with the Alabama Department of Transportation, Cullman County and the City of Cullman to remove signage directing traffic to Woodland.
- Woodland will record messages on all publicly available telephone lines at the facility informing callers that Woodland will not accept new patients as of July 1, that the facility will cease operations on July 15, and provide other options for assistance, including phone numbers for other hospitals and healthcare service providers.
- Woodland and CRMC will notify all medical staff, referring physicians and EMS services that Woodland will not accept new patients as of July 1 and will cease operations July 15.
- Woodland will work with publishers of community directories to remove the facility from listings.
- Signage will be placed at Woodland to notify anyone arriving onsite of the closure and provide information regarding alternative healthcare facilities.
- CRMC will publish formal notice of the closure of the hospital and services in *The Cullman Times* on or before July 1.

#### Patient Records:

- After July 15, Woodland patients should direct their questions about medical records to Melinda Mason, Director of Health Information Management, Woodland Medical Center, 1910 Cherokee Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055, or call (256) 739-3500.
- Beginning August 26, 2009, patients wishing to obtain a copy of their medical records should direct their request to Susan Borden, Director of Health Information Management, Hartselle Medical Center, 201 Pine Street NW, Hartselle, Alabama 35640, or call (256) 751-3000 (extension 202).
- Information on obtaining medical records will also be posted at [www.woodlandmedicalcenter.com](http://www.woodlandmedicalcenter.com).

#### Home Health:

- Patients provided services through the Woodland Home Health agency that have not been discharged by July 1 will receive a list with contact information of all home health agency alternatives in the Cullman area from which the patient may seek treatment.

#### Psychiatric Services:

- Woodland Hills will cease taking new psychiatric inpatients July 1. Patients admitted prior to July 1 may remain at Woodland Hills.
- Woodland Hills will discontinue psychiatric services on July 15 and arrangements will be made to transfer any remaining patients to an appropriate care setting.
- On July 1, CRMC will be prepared to take all patients who come to their ER with behavioral health needs. CRMC will stabilize those patients and, if necessary, make arrangements to have them transferred to a designated behavioral health facility in the area.
- CRMC is exploring all options to reinstate the delivery of adult inpatient psychiatric services in Cullman County.