

Ever Greene Ridge: A Continuum of Care Community

Community

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is long term care a priority for Greene County Medical Center?

Long term care is necessary for the health and vibrancy of a community. Having long term care locally available helps keep families together and adds to the financial well-being of the greater community. Ever Greene Ridge: A Continuum of Care Community will provide a continuum of care from independent and assisted living to nursing and skilled care, a much more efficient model of care, a priority the Medical Center has identified.

2. Will there be benefits to our patients?

In a senior community where the level of care changes with the person, families don't have to worry about their loved ones' needs not being met. The choice between independent living, assisted living and nursing home care is a big one. With a new organization managing this continuum of care organization, all levels of care will be on one campus and managed by the same experts.

3. How are the Medical Center and the Foundation participating in this new partnership?

Greene County Medical Center is participating in the organization of creating a new entity by donating land and equipment from the current long term care to the new organization because the Medical Center is committed to ensuring long term care is available in Greene County well into the future. The Foundation is donating Ever Greene Ridge to the project to provide independent living to the continuum of care community.

4. Is Greene County Medical Center selling its long term care services to a private entity?

No. The new continuum of care project forms a new, locally-controlled, not-for-profit entity that will own all of the assets and be responsible for overseeing care. The board of the new entity will be governed by community members, Medical Center Foundation board members, financial and health experts.

5. Will the people of Greene County have a say in the governance of the continuum of care facility?

Yes. The majority of the new board will be members from Greene County. Community members who have committed to service as board members for the project include: Teresa Hagen, Vice President at Peoples Bank and Vice President of the Greene County Medical Center Foundation; Linda Bills, retired Greene County Medical Center Director of Long Term Care; Jed Magee, retired attorney and Iowa juvenile court judge; and Tim Heisterkamp Certified Financial Planner.

6. Are there financial benefits for moving long term care from Greene County Medical Center to the new organization?

Yes. There will be a financial benefit to the Medical Center by moving long term care to the new organization. The new organization is treated differently by Medicare than hospitals like Greene County Medical Center. The new continuum of care facility will be dually certified by Medicare and Medicaid, and be able to take advantage of some reimbursement models unavailable to the Medical Center.

7. What type of analysis was conducted before a decision to form a new long term care organization was made?

Financial and medical research to determine the viability of a new organization was conducted. The guiding principle at every step was to maintain high-level, financially sustainable long term care in Greene County. A market study of Greene County showed a need for continued senior care services, along with the expansion of services including memory care. The financial study, called a pro-forma, projects the new entity to be a successful organization.

8. Will the new facility maintain a high level of care?

Ever Greene Ridge: A Continuum of Care Community will retain expert care in Greene County. The new locally controlled board for the new organization will consist of community members, Medical Center Foundation board members, financial, and health experts, and will provide the oversight needed to ensure the care expected by the community continues.

9. Will the number and type of long term care services increase or decrease under the new organization?

It is anticipated that additional services in the aging continuum of care community would become available, such as a memory care. The new organization will be able to pursue resources that are difficult or impossible for a hospital to pursue, plus having experts in senior care solely dedicated to the continuum of care, independent, assisted and nursing/skilled care, will allow the organization to focus on senior care.

10. What about the employees? Will there be a loss of jobs?

It is the intent and the hope of the organizations involved creating the new entity that the new organization will maintain current employment levels and could increase employment as new services are added after construction. The new entity will not be a county owned organization. Staff will be employees of the new organization and will be eligible for benefits offered by the new organization.

11. Where will the new facility be built, and how much will it cost?

The new \$16 to 20 million nursing facility will be built adjacent to the Medical Center and on land being donated by the Medical Center to the new organization. The new organization will own the existing independent living facility, Ever Greene Ridge, completing the continuum of care concept the new organization desires to achieve.

12. How long will it take to build the new facility?

The project is anticipated to be constructed within 24 months of financing for the project, with anticipated opening in the fall of 2022. The majority of the beds in the new nursing facility will be in private rooms. The facility will also include an assisted living unit, which will consist of one and two-bedroom suites, and studios.

13. Are there plans for the vacated space occupied by long term care now?

The Medical Center has a need for more office and information technology space, along with patient care areas. Although no exact plans have been formulated, the need for space exists. An analysis of all space at the Medical Center will be conducted before making a decision.