

# Sharon Hospital to join Health Quest



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With Sharon Hospital set to join Health Quest, patients in eastern Dutchess County and Connecticut will get access to expanded services, according to the family of health care providers and nonprofit hospitals.

The 78-bed hospital in Sharon, Connecticut provides patients with emergency, orthopedic, cardiac and geriatric behavioral medicine services, according to a press release from Health Quest. The hospital also offers obstetrics and general surgery services.

Sharon Hospital will join Health Quest's other medical facilities, including Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, and Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

"Sharon Hospital shares a strong cultural fit and strategic vision with our system," Health Quest President Robert Friedberg said. "Eastern Dutchess and western Connecticut residents will see improved quality through better coordination of care and improved access to the specialists within our excellent medical staff and an integrated electronic medical record system."

Sharon Hospital is part of Essent Healthcare of Connecticut, an affiliate of RCCH HealthCare Partners, and transitioned to for-profit status in 2002.

A preliminary agreement with Essent Healthcare of Connecticut has been made and Health Quest will submit a certificate of need to the State of Connecticut for change in ownership. The facility is expected to officially join Health Quest in mid- 2017, pending completion of the customary regulatory review.

"This offers tremendous benefits to our patients," said Peter Cordeau, CEO of Sharon Hospital. "They will now have seamless access to a full spectrum of services — from expert oncology and cardiology care to innovative neurology services and trained trauma surgeons. This means more options and reasons for patients to come to and stay connected with Sharon. It also means growth opportunities for our organization. Our future looks bright."

The Foundation for Community Health, based in Sharon, played a factor in bringing the hospital and Health Quest together, according to the release. The hospital, Health Quest and the foundation "will work to engage the community in the discussion of services and available resources to support future growth opportunities," according to the release from Health Quest.

"Sharon Hospital is a critical component of our local healthcare system and its future," said Nancy Heaton, CEO of the Foundation for Community Health. "We are very excited and optimistic about the future of the hospital under Health Quest's leadership and look forward to introducing them to our community and to creating opportunities to work together on identifying and addressing the critical health needs of our community."

In addition to its hospitals, Health Quest Medical Practice, a physician group, provides more than 265 physicians providers across the region, covering Dutchess, Ulster and Putnam counties. Health Quest has 5,400 employees.

The area's other hospital network, Westchester Medical Center Health Network, also owns a number of local facilities, including Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie and both HealthAlliance locations in Kingston.