

Sharon Hospital to change status

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SHARON, Conn. — In September, Sharon Hospital announced that it would return to not-for-profit status by joining HealthQuest, a nonprofit health care provider based in the mid-Hudson Valley.

Sharon had converted to a for-profit hospital (the first in the state) in 2002.

The senior staff at the hospital remained in place, including Peter Cordeau, who has been Sharon Hospital's CEO since last November; CFO Christian Bergeron

and Lori Puff, the hospital's chief nursing officer.

The new partnership is expected to lead to increased hiring at the hospital.

The hospital filed its certificate of need (CON) with the state on Nov. 3.

Cordeau said it received the first round of "completeness questions in December" from the state.

"The minimum regulatory process is six months," he said. "Considering that we have received one set of completeness questions already, May seems like a cautiously optimistic date" for the approval.

Public meetings are expected

to be held in the spring, possibly March, scheduled by the state Office of Health Care Access.

HealthQuest President Robert Friedberg said in September, "The community will once again own Sharon Hospital. The profits and benefits will be reinvested in the community."

The largest member of the HealthQuest group is Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

The group also includes Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, a 68-bed acute care community hospital. Sharon Hospital is a 78-bed acute care community hospital.