

In 2008, Covenant Health System was considering closing the local clinic due to financial loss. To prevent a potentially devastating loss to the community, Cogdell Memorial Hospital stepped up and took over ownership of the clinic. Two things happened when this occurred:

1) The clinic had to now follow guidelines as a “Rural Health Clinic” because it’s owned and operated by the hospital.

2) The physicians remained under contract with Covenant and are leased by Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

For these reasons, outpatient services (lab, x-ray, etc.) are required to be billed separately from the physician’s visit and a separate co-payment must be collected for these services.

In the beginning we attempted to maintain Laboratory services in the clinic but due to having to collect additional co-payments when lab work was ordered patient registration became bogged down resulting in numerous complaints.

We also found that less than 1% of the patients getting lab work done at the clinic were scheduled to see a physician afterwards.

In addition, the x-ray machine at the clinic was inoperable when we took over the clinic. Repairs to the machine were not advisable and extremely expensive since the machine was too old and out of service. This coupled with the fact that the majority of patients who came in for Radiology services also received Laboratory services we determined it best to only offer X-ray services at the hospital.

Therefore, in an effort to comply with the law, reduce congestion at the clinic and streamline patient registration and Outpatient services all Laboratory services were moved to the hospital.

The hospital, clinic, specialty clinic, laboratory, radiology and all other services will be located under one roof in the proposed new hospital.