

SECTION III MEDICAL SERVICES CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

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10/12/2004

INTRODUCTION

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (NSBKB) and Camden County residents have access to a wide variety of medical services. To put these services in perspective it is important to understand the profile of the community they care for. Based on the 2000 Census, Camden County has a population of approximately 44,000 with an average age of 29.9 years, as compared to the state and national averages of 34.5 and 36.2 respectively. 78.5% of the population in Camden County is under age 45, which is high in comparison to the state and national percentages of 69% and 65%.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The local hospital, Southeast Georgia Health System (SGHS)– Camden Campus is a not-for-profit, 40 bed hospital that contributed \$56 million to the local economy, including \$1.9 million in uncompensated healthcare. The quality of care is exceptional, as evidenced by a score of 87.39 for overall patient satisfaction, which is above the 84.9 average for all hospitals participating in the Avitar International, patient satisfaction database.

Camden Campus offers inpatient, outpatient, and 24-hour emergency services to area residents and provides health care services to military personnel and their families stationed at NSBKB.

Camden Campus offers a complete line of diagnostic and therapeutic services. An integral part of these services is an impressive scope of diagnostic imaging equipment, a state-of-the-art critical care unit, and expanded Labor, Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum (LDRP) suites. Camden Campus also offers occupational, physical, cardiopulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation therapy services.

Of those seen for both inpatient and outpatient care, 27% are TRICARE patients. 49% of the maternity center patients are TRICARE members. 92% of the physicians serving Camden County participate in the national TRICARE program.

Comparison to the National Average:

Camden County has .92 hospital beds available per 1000 population, which is below the national average of 2.9 beds per 1000 population. However, when combined with the service area immediately north of Camden County, Glynn County, the ratio is 3.2 beds per 1000 population. The local hospital, SGHS – Camden Campus, was built ten years ago and is in the process of obtaining approvals for a major expansion to accommodate the growth of population requiring health services in the area. The expansion will add 60,000 square feet. Although there will be no bed capacity added, there will be room for future additions approved by the state.

The hospital performs a significant number of infant deliveries for the local community. There are currently about 16.9 births per 1000 population in comparison to the state and national averages of 16.5 and 14.5 births per 1000 population. The strength of our prenatal and postnatal care in the community is illustrated by the fact that our infant mortality rate was 7.5 in 1998 compared to the statewide average among other community hospitals of 9.2.

The emergency room at SGHS – Camden Campus has an annual utilization of approximately 21,000 visits per year. It has 11 beds and provides 464 emergency room visits per 1000 population, which exceeds the state average in community hospitals of 375 and the national average of 371. As the only emergency room service in the county it is a major source of primary and acute care for the individuals living and working at NSBKB. If a higher level of care is required, Camden Campus provides stabilizing treatments prior to transfer to Jacksonville Naval Hospital. For any major trauma, the local hospital has strong affiliations with hospitals in Jacksonville and Savannah as well as its sister hospital in Brunswick to assist in immediate transport of patients beyond its scope of service.

Exceptional Services Provided by the Hospital:

The rehabilitation services department at the hospital is the sole provider of physical therapy services for special needs students in Camden County Schools.

Camden Campus is equipped with state of the art technology. This year the hospital placed in service a permanent open MRI magnet to provide expanded diagnostic services.

The gastroenterology program is also advanced. Two examples of state of the art services performed at the Camden Campus are Enterx injection therapy, which is a new procedure for treatment of gastric reflux disease; and the M2A capsule. This capsule will replace the traditional endoscopy in some cases. The M2A is a pill-sized camera that transmits video pictures to a device worn by the patient and is then downloaded by a physician for inspection. It allows physicians to see areas of the small intestine not possible with other forms of endoscopy.

Managed Care Contracts for Southeast Georgia Health System – Camden Campus:

- American Heritage Life
- BeechStreet
- ChoiceCare
- Coastal Georgia Regional Health Network
- First Health
- CompFirst
- Guardian
- Synovus
- Integrated Health Plan, Inc.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO
- Champus/TRICARE
- Cigna/Healthsource
- Community Care Network
- Companion Workplace Health
- First Health
- Georgia 1st/1st Medical Network
- Georgia State Merit
- One Health Plan/Great West

- Beyond Benefits/Healthstar PPO
- Preferred Plan of Georgia
- SpecialNet, Inc.
- United Healthcare

- Private Healthcare Systems
- Southcare/Coventry
- Three Rivers Provider Network
- United Payors & Provider

ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES

Currently in Camden County, there are a total of 32 full-time, active physicians on the Medical Staff of Southeast Georgia Health System – Camden Campus and there are 9 full-time physicians at the NSBKB Naval Ambulatory Care Center. There are also 3 part-time physicians, a full-time physician’s assistant, a part-time physician’s assistant, 3 full-time nurse midwives, a part-time nurse midwife, a full-time nurse practitioner and a part time nurse practitioner. NSBKB Naval Ambulatory Center also has 4 physician’s assistants. This equates to a ratio of about 1.1 physicians per 1000 population. Additionally, significant recruitment efforts are underway and a minimum of six new physicians will be in the community by the end of 2004.

The community has 17 full-time primary care physicians, which is 53% of the total physician population. This exceeds the state and national averages which are at 42% for the state of Georgia, and 40% nationwide. Camden County residents also have easy access to a wide variety of specialists, with Jacksonville, Florida about 30 minutes to the south and Brunswick, Georgia about 45 minutes to the north.

The following table breaks down primary care providers by field in Camden County in comparison to the state of Georgia and the U.S. Our community has a larger percentage of family practice and obstetricians/gynecologists than state or national averages. We are either equal to or one percentage point below the state and national averages in terms of pediatricians and internists. These are the areas that the recruitment efforts mentioned above are targeting. In looking at the overall picture, the breakdown of primary care providers is right in line with the rest of the state and the nation.

Distribution of Primary Care Physicians by Field						
Field	Camden Number	Camden Percentage	Georgia Number	Georgia Percentage	US Number	US Percentage
Internal Medicine	6	35%	2627	34%	113712	36%
Family Practice	5	29%	2058	27%	89026	28%
Pediatrics	3	18%	1445	19%	56257	18%
Obstetrics/Gynecology	3	18%	1246	16%	39536	13%
General Practice	0	0%	351	5%	15768	5%
Total Primary Care	17	100%	7727	100%	314299	100%

As the chart below illustrates, Camden County is above the national average in the number of obstetricians/gynecologists, general surgeons, and emergency medicine physicians. This meets the most prevalent needs of the local community. Other communities within 30 miles of Camden County cover the areas of major shortage like

psychiatry and orthopedics. Jacksonville is a major city that provides access to a variety of medical specialties, including orthopedics, psychiatry, and neurology. The local community also has ear, nose and throat; podiatry; gastroenterology; ophthalmology; and plastic surgery specialists.

Distribution Physicians by Specialty				
<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Camden Number</u>	<u>Camden Percentage</u>	<u>US Number</u>	<u>US Percentage</u>
Internal Medicine	6	19%	97707	24%
Family Practice	5	16%	68663	17%
Pediatrics	3	9%	49422	12%
Psychiatry	0	0%	37838	9%
Obstetrics/Gynecology	4	13%	35054	8%
Anesthesiology	1	3%	33621	8%
General Surgery	3	9%	30990	8%
Orthopedics	0	0%	20260	4%
Emergency Medicine	4	13%	21991	5%

Recruitment Efforts:

Over the past six months, the local hospital has been recruiting physicians in a variety of specialties. The heaviest recruiting is in pediatrics, internal medicine, family practice and orthopedics.

The hospital is also working with a local internist to develop a 4 to 5 physician multispecialty primary care practice. This would provide primary care services while bringing in physicians who have a designated specialty currently needed in Camden County.

UNINSURED POPULATION’S ACCESS TO CARE

Camden County’s uninsured population currently receives care through the Coastal Medical Access Project (CMAP). To qualify for the project an individual must be uninsured and making 200% of the federal poverty level or less. This means for a family of four they would earn about \$36,800 or less. CMAP performs three functions for Camden, McIntosh, and Glynn Counties:

1. Intensive case management for people with chronic illnesses by helping them navigate the healthcare system and find services in their area or surrounding counties. 40% of CMAP clinic cases in Camden County fall into this category.

2. Medical care to the general population. The clinic in Camden County opened in February and has seen 274 individual patients with a total of 654 visits. The clinic operates inside Camden Campus.

3. Access to Med Bank. Volunteers help individuals who qualify for free prescription drugs get access to the medications. Since February, 306 individuals in Camden County received 1399 prescriptions. The total cost of these medications is \$366,000.

Additional information on the services provided by CMAP is attached in appendix A.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE AGING POPULATION

Currently, there is one assisted living facility in the area. The Mews of St. Mary's can care for 24 residents. Residents are provided with assistance in bathing and oral hygiene, meals, have medications administered, and their rooms cleaned.

The community has two nursing homes. One is a 78-bed Intermediate Care Facility, which provides physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy along with routine daily care. The second facility is an independent living facility that can accommodate 18 individuals and provides meals, monitors daily activities, provides transportation to physician's appointments, and provides medication reminders. The facility will also be opening a 6-bed assisted living facility, providing the same services but will administer medications.

In terms of quality of life for retired individuals, the community offers scenery, historic exhibits, wildlife, military exhibits and recreation. Local attractions include Cumberland Island National Seashore, Crooked River State Park, Satilla River boardwalk, St. Marys River and the Sugar mill Tabby Ruins. If you are looking for a weekend getaway, Camden County is only a twenty minute drive from Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island and the Okefenoke Swamp and only a few hours drive from Charleston, Savannah, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Cape Canaveral, Orlando and Tampa.

COOPERATIVE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

The healthcare facility at NSBKB is a full-scope outpatient clinic. The mission of the Naval Ambulatory Care Clinic (NACC) is to safeguard the health of members of the Naval Service and other beneficiaries located throughout Florida and Georgia. The Clinical Staff consists of 13 Health Care Providers along with 129 ancillary and support staff who are dedicated to providing the best quality health care for infants through adults. The services include acute care, women's health, immunizations, treatment of minor injuries, and treatment of the majority of common illnesses such as colds, sinus infections, hypertension and diabetes. The NACC also has an outpatient pharmacy and a Call-In Pharmacy Refill service.

Cases that cannot be treated at the NACC are transported to Southeast Georgia Health System - Camden Campus or to other hospitals in Jacksonville, Florida or Brunswick,

Georgia. Memorandums of Understanding are in place between the NACC and the Camden Campus for transfer of patients, patient education programs, etc.

Agreements have also been established with Camden Campus for its laboratory to provide urgent and time-sensitive lab work services for the NACC. This has proven to be an excellent arrangement to provide back up for the services provided at the base.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding is in place between the Camden Campus and the Trident Refit Facility (TRF) for training hospital staff on handling TRF workers who are injured or have been exposed to radioactive or other hazardous materials. These agreements are examples of the excellent working relationship that exists between NSB Kings Bay and the local healthcare providers.

SGHS-CAMDEN CAMPUS RENOVATION & EXPANSION PROGRAM

In anticipation of Camden County's growth, the Southeast Georgia Health System, Camden Campus, will expand the existing hospital through the construction of a two-story building on the northwest side of the hospital. In addition, SGHS – Camden Campus is also proposing to renovate portions of the areas vacated by those services moving to the new construction for expansion of additional services. A number of facility infrastructure upgrades will also be made including construction of a free-standing central energy plant to house centralized mechanical and electrical services for the new construction and the existing facility illustrated in Exhibit A. The number of inpatient beds will remain at 40-beds.

The new two-story addition will consist of approximately 81,500 square feet, while renovations will involve approximately 20,000 square feet of the existing facility.

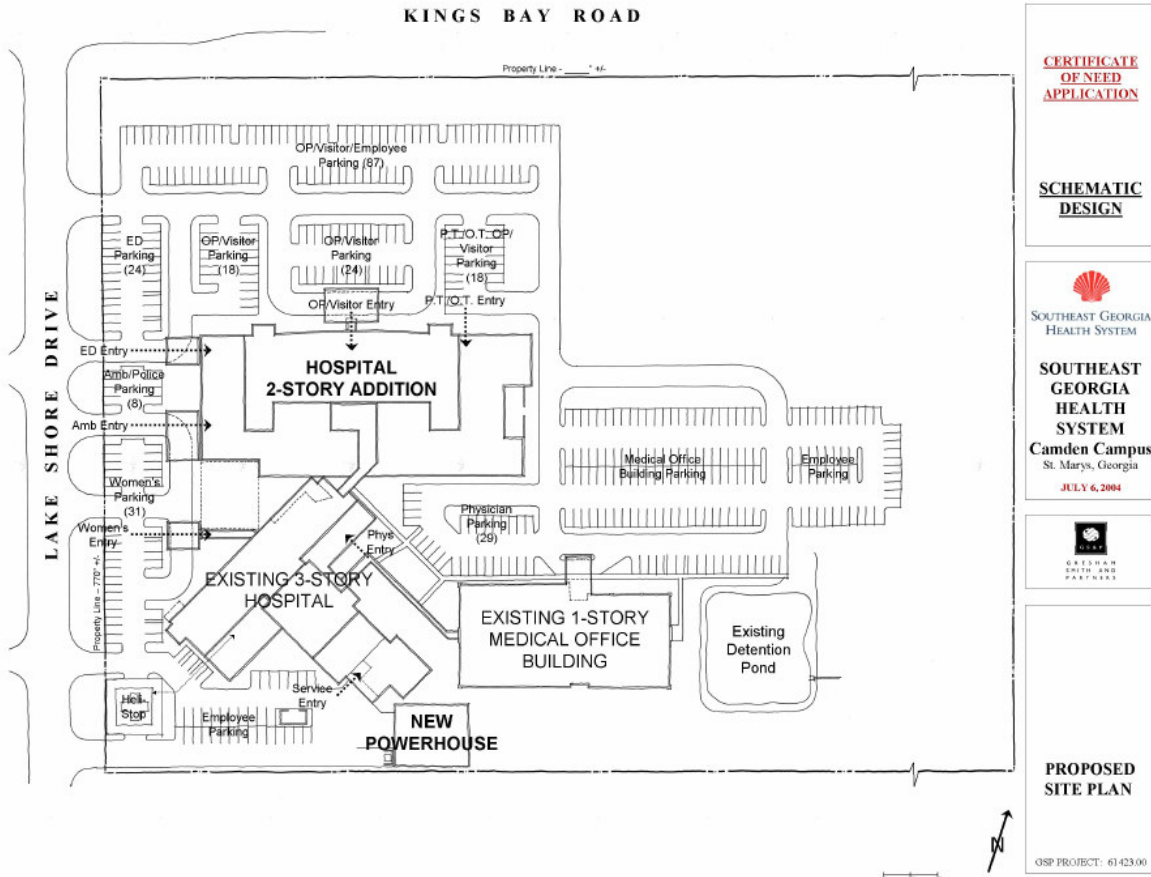


Exhibit A

The following departments or services will be located in the new construction:

First Floor

- Main entrance and Admissions
- Emergency Department
- Surgery Department
 - Expansion to 4 operating rooms
- Radiology Department
 - Nuclear Medicine
 - Ultrasound
 - Bone Densitometry
 - MRI (new full-time service)
 - CT Scanning
 - Radiography/Fluoroscopy
- Cardiopulmonary Department

- Outpatient Services Department
- Outpatient Rehabilitative Services
 - Physical Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Speech Therapy

Second Floor

- 23-Bed Medical-Surgical Unit
- Five (5)-Bed Intensive Care Unit

Departments or services to be included in the existing renovated areas include:

First Floor

- Laboratory (relocated from out buildings on campus)
- Pharmacy (relocated from second floor)
- Dietary (expansion of food preparation, serving area and dining area)
- Medical Records
- Medical Staff Offices
- Administration
- Classrooms/Conference Rooms

Second Floor

- Maternity Center

Third Floor

- Sleep Management Center (relocated from Camden Medical Pavilion)
- On-call rooms
- Storage

It's very evident by the investment and the commitment of SGHS that this organization is in step with the Camden County's planned growth. Within the next 2 years, a full range of services listed above will be provided locally without having to drive to neighboring communities.

Detailed descriptions and illustrations are available at The Camden Partnership Inc. office in St Marys Georgia.