

**OPTIM HEALTH SYSTEM TO MERGE ITS JENKINS MEDICAL CENTER  
INTO SCREVEN MEDICAL CENTER**

**Q. What is happening?**

A. Optim Health System today announced it will be merging the services of its Jenkins Medical Center in Millen, Georgia into its Screven Medical Center, located in Sylvania, Georgia. The merger will be effective June 24th, 2017 and will result in the closure of the Jenkins facility.

**Q. Why are you merging both facilities and closing Jenkins Medical Center?**

A. The combination of costly needed infrastructure upgrades at the Jenkins Medical Center, cuts in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements and an ongoing decrease in patient activity to non-sustainable levels forced the decision.

Patient safety and quality care are our highest priorities, and we believe that combining all medical services from Jenkins into Screven will enable us to best serve the regions' long-term healthcare needs.

**Q. Will Optim's Primary Care Center continue to provide medical care to Millen and Jenkins County residents?**

A. Optim will continue to provide primary medical care to the residents of Millen and Jenkins County with a team of 17 highly-skilled medical professionals including two physicians, a nurse practitioner, and 14 support staff at its Primary Care center which will remain open in Millen at 961 East Winthrope Avenue.

We are pleased Kyle Gay, MD, Prakul Chandra, MD, and nurse practitioner Jennifer Lunsford, all excellent primary healthcare providers with a large and highly-skilled supporting team, will continue to see patients and serve local residents at the Millen-based Optim Primary Care center.

**Q. Why couldn't you keep Jenkins Medical Center open?**

A. We made a number of investments and changes to Jenkins over the past several years to keep the hospital open and running at lower costs. We wish this merger and closure weren't necessary but after a lengthy analysis, running Jenkins with accelerating financial losses, and the challenges posed by its aging facility, we had no other options.

**Q. What are the benefits of this merger to patients and local-area residents?**

A. Patient safety and quality care are our highest priorities, and we believe that combining all medical services from Jenkins into Screven will enable us to best serve the regions' long-term healthcare needs. Unfortunately, in recent years many rural hospitals across the country have faced the same operating challenges as Jenkins Medical Center, and many of these hospitals have also had to close.

**Q. When will the merger be completed?**

A. The merger of Jenkins capabilities into Screven Medical Center will begin immediately and will be completed as quickly as possible. The Jenkins Medical Center will remain open for the time being but will close within the next 60 days.

**Q. What does this mean for patients currently being treated at Jenkins Medical Center?**

A. All patients receiving on-going treatment within Jenkins Medical Center at the time it closes can choose to receive that same service at Optim Medical Center-Screven. Optim staff will advise patients accordingly so they may plan to transfer their care to Screven or to another medical facility of their choice.

**Q. Where can patients and local residents get more information about this merger?**

A. We have a web page available for employees and patients who want additional information about what is taking place: [www.jenkins.optimhealth.com](http://www.jenkins.optimhealth.com). We also have a special phone line patients can call for additional information from 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. The phone number is 912-564-5290.

**Q. Where can patients of Jenkins Medical Center obtain copies of their medical records?**

A. Medical records previously held at Jenkins will now be maintained at Screven. Patients needing copies of their records should call 478-982-4221 from 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM Monday through Friday and request connection to the Records Department.

**Q. How many Jenkins Medical Center employees are losing their jobs?**

A. The decision to merge Jenkins' staff and operations into Optim Medical Center-Screven will result in the elimination of approximately 55 full-time and part-time positions.

**Q. What benefits are you offering employees who are losing their jobs as a result of this merger?**

A. We regret that our actions are resulting in job loss for some of our employees and we are committed to helping those affected by this transition. Eligible employees whose job has been eliminated may receive severance payments and all employees will receive outplacement assistance through Trace Staffing. Additionally, all employees whose jobs have been eliminated will be considered for open positions at Optim's medical centers and clinics across our healthcare network.

**Q. Are any of your other hospitals in danger of closing?**

A. No. All our hospitals, primary care centers and medical clinics across our network continue to serve patients and many of them are expanding and hiring staff. Our mission across our network of hospitals and other facilities is to provide patients with the highest standards of medical care, and we continuously review all our locations to ensure we have highly skilled staff and resources needed to succeed.

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