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

**Optim Primary Care in Millen Will Continue to Provide Medical Services to Local Residents**

(MILLEN, GA) April, 25, 2017 – 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. The merger will be effective June 24th, 2017 and will result in the closure of the Jenkins facility.

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

Optim will continue to provide primary medical care to the residents of Millen and Jenkins County with two physicians, a nurse practitioner, and a staff of 14 additional supporting professionals at its Primary Care center which will remain open in Millen at 961 East Winthrope Avenue.

“After careful consideration and with no workable alternatives, we made the difficult decision to close our Jenkins Medical Center,” said Bob Sellers, CEO of Optim’s Jenkins and Screven facilities. “We wish this wasn’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.”

“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,” continued Mr. Sellers.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the patients of Millen and Jenkins County, Optim confirmed that Kyle Gay, MD, Prakul Chandra, MD, 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.

**Assistance for Jenkins Medical Center Patients**

The Jenkins Medical Center will remain open for the next 60 days. All patients receiving on-going treatment within Jenkins Medical Center at the time it closes may 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.

Optim has established a special phone number and web page for Jenkins Medical Center patients seeking additional information. Patients may call 912-564-5290 from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday, or visit [www.jenkins.optimhealth.com](http://www.jenkins.optimhealth.com) any time of day. Optim also plans to share additional information with patients and their families through its medical providers and by special personal contact when needed.

Medical records previously held at Jenkins will now be maintained at Screven. Patients needing copies of their records should call 478-982-4221 and request connection to the Records Department.

### **Assistance for Jenkins Medical Center Employees**

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.

"We are sorry this decision will result in job loss and we are committed to helping those affected by this transition," said David Castleberry, CEO of Optim Health System. "I want to thank all our Jenkins Medical Center employees for the outstanding care they gave to so many patients for so many years. We are grateful for their excellent work and their dedication to our patients and the community."

Eligible employees whose job has been eliminated may receive severance payments. 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 its healthcare network.

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### **About Optim Medical Center-Screven**

Located in Sylvania, GA, Optim Medical Center-Screven offers specialized treatment in multiple areas including Diabetic Education, Imaging, Emergency Room, Inpatient Care, Laboratory Services, Surgical Services, Physical Therapy, Pain Management and Primary Care. Optim Medical Center-Screven aims to achieve the highest-quality service and treatment standards, providing healthcare to patients in rural areas. For more information please visit: [www.optimhealth.com](http://www.optimhealth.com)