

## Acute Care Clinic Plan for LCMH

LAWRENCEVILLE — Starting in a couple of weeks, treatment for minor medical issues will become much more convenient for Lawrence Countians.

Lawrence County Memorial Hospital announced today that it's opening a daytime acute care clinic, located in the Primary Care Clinic, 2111 Lexington Avenue. Hours will be from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on weekends. The first day of service will be May 13.

Gene Allen, Lawrence County Memorial Hospital Primary Care Clinic manager, said it's an expansion of the hospital's evening acute care clinic, which opened in September of 2015.

"That's been a very big success for our organization and the patients in our community," Allen said. "We're always looking for ways to give our patients more access to healthcare, and this is one of the ways we came up with."

Michelle Thacker, MSN-FNP-C, will be the primary provider at the acute care clinic.

"However, all of our providers will be working there from time to time," said Allen.

Allen stresses that those who visit the clinic don't need an appointment. However, he says, it's intended for people who have a mild injury or illness, such as a fever, a sore throat, congestion or an earache.

"If it's not a true emergency situation, we can take care of them," he said. "It's for acute symptoms, like the flu or if someone has a cold. We can deal with rashes, Poison Ivy, bug bites and minor sprains. Anything of that nature, we can accommodate."

The clinic cannot treat chronic conditions, and will not refill medication and administer stitches or staples.

An example of when someone might choose the acute care clinic is when they can't get in to see their regular family physician.

"We can see you and possibly get you started on some antibiotics, or maybe steroids," Allen said. "Then you will follow up with your primary care provider."

Allen says his staff has learned that a lot of people don't actually have a primary care provider.

"This is a great avenue for those people to have access to healthcare," he said.

It's also good for people who might be injured or ill, but aren't hurting badly enough to warrant an emergency room visit.

"In that case, it would allow our emergency room doctors to truly focus on emergency patients," he said.

The acute care clinic can be reached at 943-7214.