

LCMH Primary Care Clinic to offer Expanded Service

Lawrence County Memorial Hospital's Primary Care Clinic, 2111 Lexington Avenue, has added services, and announced extended hours for one of its providers.

Gene Allen, Manager at the clinic, said testing for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), the flu and strep throat is now available, with results being immediately available to patients. "The important thing is that we can do these tests in the clinic, and we'll have the results before they leave," said Allen, "If a test is positive, we can send a script with them and get them started on their medications in a quicker time frame. It's kind of a one-stop shop." The move should especially be of benefit to parents who have children in school. "Those are the three most common illnesses for school-aged kids," he said. "We believe making this available will provide more access to care for our community and our patients."

RSV is a disease that causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract. It's so common, according to medical experts, that most children have been infected with the virus before their second birthday. Adults can also be infected, experts note.

The flu is one of the most common diseases Americans are exposed to on an annual basis. More than three million are affected each year, according to statistics. The flu, in fact, is listed as "very common" in every age group, from babies, aged two or less, to seniors, aged 65 and older.

Strep throat, a bacterial infection, is generally transmitted by direct contact with the mucus or sores of someone else with the disease. It is also very common, with more than three million cases within the U.S. each year.

"It's exciting for us to be able to add these services," Allen said. "It's great to know that we'll be able to get our patients on their way to recovery that much sooner."

Also, Allen announced that Katie Clark, a Family Nurse Practitioner at the clinic, has seen a change in hours. Starting this week, Allen said, Clark would be seeing patients from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., each Tuesday through Friday.

Located in the medical building behind the hospital, the facility also offers an acute care clinic, which is open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The primary care clinic can be reached by calling **943-7214**.