

New Community Extended Care Center Now Catering to Shorter-Stay Patients

NCC Opens 30-bed Subacute Unit

New Community Corporation has opened a dedicated subacute unit within its Extended Care Center that is catering to patients who require intense medical supervision, but a shorter period of time in a skilled nursing facility.

The completely refurbished, 30-bed unit boasts all new furniture and is intended for patients staying an average of 20 to 30 days, although it can accommodate patients up to three months when necessary. Patient stays in the unit are covered by Medicare, private-pay and HMOs.

Among the residents being served in the unit are stroke patients, patients who have suffered heart attacks, persons with diabetes and trauma victims. Patients in the subacute unit, located in the Extended Care Center's West Wing, will have a different set of activities than those in the rest of the facility, with staff realizing that the unit may also attract a greater number of younger patients.

The unit will be staffed by four nurses during the day shift and two to three in the evening. The nurses will be aided by certified nursing assistants.

"We're trying to be competitive with other facilities and even be a notch above," said Betty Lawson, administrator of NCC's Extended Care Center, located at 266 South Orange Avenue in Newark.

New Community recently hosted a special reception at the center to showcase the new unit, which Lawson said will go a long way in helping to make the Extended Care Center the nursing "facility of choice" for Newark residents and those from surrounding communities. Patients admitted to the subacute unit also have access to on-site rehabilitation services.

James Worthy, a recent patient in the unit, called the surroundings "really nice."