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Sanger Clinic to Add Doctor, Services

By Eileen Bradway, The Herald, Rock Hill, South Carolina

Rock Hill's Sanger Clinic will expand later this year with the addition of a new doctor and services.

Carolinas HealthCare System announced Wednesday it is buying the Sanger Clinic, one of the oldest and largest cardiology groups in the area. Dr. Harry Hicklin of the Rock Hill clinic said since the announcement, some patients and nurses have questioned whether the clinic will be making changes, cutting back services or even closing.

Instead, he said, the clinic will be adding a doctor July 1, bringing the total at the clinic to five; it's a move that has been in the works for about a year. "We're staying, and we're improving our practice," Hicklin said.

Dr. Justin Haynie will come to the Rock Hill clinic from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, where he is finishing his interventional and peripheral cardiology training. He'll be moving to the area with his wife and family, Hicklin said.

"With him joining us, we'll actually be expanding our services in Rock Hill," Hicklin said. The Rock Hill clinic, located at 197 Piedmont Blvd. across from Piedmont Medical Center, opened in 1989.

Hicklin said the buyout will serve patients well, particularly as medical technology continues to evolve. Being part of Carolinas HealthCare System will make it easier to buy and own the latest equipment, Hicklin said, and the two groups won't have to compete for certificates of need.

He also said doctors will not be taking patients out of Rock Hill.

"We're not being asked to send our patients to Charlotte," Hicklin said. "We support Piedmont 100 percent."

The Sanger Clinic, which has worked with Carolinas Medical Center for about 50 years, has more than 60 doctors and 10 locations, including Rock Hill. It is one of the largest single specialty groups in the Southeast.

Officials with both groups said at the time of the announcement that patients would see no changes at the clinics. The sale is expected to be completed by March 31.

Patients with questions can call the clinic at 327-3456.

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