

Westfield Memorial Hospital Mitigation Plan for Inpatient Bed Closure

Westfield Memorial Hospital (WMH) has been serving the community since 1942. Westfield Memorial Hospital is committed to delivering compassionate and high-quality care to meet the health needs of its surrounding communities of Westfield, Ripley, Brocton, Sherman, Clymer, Bemus Point, Mayville, Chautauqua, Stockton, Portland, Dewittville, Hartfield, and Ashville.

Westfield Memorial is a member of the Allegheny Health Network (AHN), an eight-hospital health system based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, serving 29 counties in Pennsylvania, portions of New York, Ohio, and West Virginia. Westfield Memorial Hospital is currently a 4-bed, not-for-profit, short-term acute care hospital, that provides inpatient care, emergency medicine, outpatient surgery, medical imaging, laboratory, physical therapy, specialty care clinics and women's health services. The hospital is equipped with advanced technology and offers diagnostic services including imaging, laboratory testing, and telemedicine.

WMH is pursuing Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) designation as a preferred operating structure. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed this new provider type to support small rural hospitals to align outpatient services to community needs. As an Article 28 facility in the State of New York, WMH is required to close the 4 inpatient beds as a requirement of the REH designation. WMH plans to operate 4 observation beds in the former 4-bed acute inpatient unit. Westfield Memorial Hospital will follow all New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidelines and requirements throughout the review process to achieve REH designation.

WMH is dedicated to providing exceptional care to residents in its communities. WMH offers a full spectrum of comprehensive health services, programs, and resources to support the community served and to meet/advance identified community health needs. WMH's patient-centered approach to care means a greater focus on coordinated health and wellness services and being accountable and responsive to patients. As a member of the Allegheny Health Network, WMH provides access to medical specialists, critical care and specialty services. WMH has telemedicine capabilities and arrangements with a number of medical transport services to connect patients to the care they need.

Like most rural populations WMH's PSA is expected to decrease in size from a current population of 14,405 in 2021 to 14,140 by 2026 representing a 1.8% decline (265 people). However, the 65+ age cohort is projected to grow by 8.5% (271 people) by 2026. Additionally, individuals who are 65+ comprise 22% of the current PSA population which is above the national average of 17% in 2020. Due to growth in WMH's PSA older population over the next five years there will likely be greater reliance on healthcare services and a greater incidence of chronic illnesses. Westfield Memorial Hospital works with community organizations to provide free health screenings to community members. The goal is to

improve quality outcomes chronic diseases such as those associated with diabetes The desired impact is to promote diabetes prevention in the community.

Westfield Memorial Hospital partners with the Chautauqua County Health Department on a Medication Assisted Therapy program. This program is offered through the WMH emergency department, and the goal of this program is to establish a protocol to treat eligible overdose patients with Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT). The desired impact of this program is to increase awareness of treatment for overdose complications; and increase services for overdose cases.

Westfield Memorial Hospital has several Amish communities in its service area. WMH partners with the Chautauqua County Health Department in providing preventative health screenings to the Amish communities. The goal of the program is to improve the preventative care in the Amish communities.

A Certificate of Need will be submitted to New York State Department of Health for the closure of the 4 acute inpatient beds, as required to meet the REH status. WMH plans to operate 4 observation beds in the former 4-bed acute inpatient unit and will notify regional hospitals of this change upon establishment of REH status. WMH has in place transfer agreements with AHN Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie, PA. Transfer agreements with AHN Hamot in Erie, PA and Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, NY, two trauma centers, are in place for higher risk, critically ill or injured patients.

An estimated 120 additional annual medical transports will result from the closure of the four inpatient beds. WMH works closely with the Chautauqua County emergency medical service, local volunteer EMS, and regional medical transport services. WMH leadership has included the EMS agencies (both ground and air transport) in the transition plan to ensure the availability of medical transportation resources to accommodate the additional annual transports.

As a REH, Westfield Memorial Hospital will continue to offer 24/7 physician staffed emergency services. The emergency service is supported by on site imaging and laboratory resources. The emergency providers also have direct access to specialist and advanced care through AHN Saint Vincent Hospital, a nearby regional hospital in Erie, PA. The emergency room staff will coordinate medical transport for patients requiring a higher level of care to other healthcare facilities through existing medical transport relationships and facility transfer agreements. WMH will also offer an observation unit for continued care and evaluation.

WMH has a long-standing commitment to providing high-quality care, a dedicated and experienced staff, and a strong track record of serving the needs of our community. The transition to a Rural Emergency Hospital is vital for the health and safety of the community and will allow Westfield Memorial Hospital to continue to provide exceptional care for our patients.