8/11/2022

Berwick Hospital Center is notifying patients and family members, physicians, staff members, partners, and state and federal agencies of its plans to vacate the Hospital’s Acute and Ambulatory Care license by October 13, 2022. The Hospital has submitted an application to Pennsylvania Department of Human Services for licensure as a Psychiatric Hospital. We are committed to providing ongoing care for current patients and to an orderly transition that provides for the safe discharge or transfer for all patients before October 13, 2022.

**Surgery**

* Elective joint surgery will terminate on 8/24/2022.
* Elective surgery services will terminate on 9/15/2022.
* Emergent surgery will terminate on 9/30/2022.

**Wound Care**

* Wound Care services will terminate on 9/30/2022.
* Alternative resources are available at:
	+ Wilkes-Barre Comprehensive Wound Care
	+ St. Luke’s Wound Care, Tamaqua, PA
	+ Advanced Wound Care, Pottsville, PA

**Outpatient Cardiology**

* Outpatient Cardiology stress tests and echocardiograms will terminate on 9/30/2022.
* Alternative services are available at:
	+ Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA
	+ Lehigh Valley Health Network, Hazleton, PA
	+ Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

**Respiratory Outpatient / Inpatient Testing**

* PFT and EKG testing will terminate on 8/31/2022.
* All inpatient respiratory therapy services will terminate on 10/13/2022.
* Alternative services are available at:
	+ Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA
	+ Lehigh Valley Health Network, Hazleton, PA
	+ Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

**Diagnostic Imaging / Outpatient Testing**

* Outpatient diagnostic imaging studies will terminate on 9/30/2022.
* Alternative services are available at:
	+ Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA
	+ Lehigh Valley Health Network, Hazleton
	+ Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

**Laboratory Outpatient Testing**

* The laboratory testing service will cease as of 10/13/2022.
* Test results will be returned to ordering provider via manual fax.
* The hospital will stop collecting reference labs and cultures not performed in-house by 10/1/2022 to ensure results are returned to patients before closure.

**Diagnostic Imaging, Inpatient / Emergency Room Testing / Laboratory Service / Respiratory**

* Coordination of closure for Emergency Room, Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory Services will be concurrently provided for emergency room patients.

**Physical Therapy Outpatient**

* Outpatient Physical Therapy treatment will terminate on 8/26/2022.

**Emergent Admissions**

* The deadline for emergent admissions is 9/30/2022; all patients will be discharged or transferred to the appropriate level of care by 10/13/2022.

**Emergency Department will close all services on 10/13/2022.**

* Walk in patients will be received until 10/13/2022.
* Geisinger Medical Center, Bloomsburg, PA
* Lehigh Valley Health Network, Hazleton, PA

The Health Information Management department will continue to maintain the medical records. Patients may access their records by calling 570-759-5071. The Release of Information form and instructions are available on the [www.berwickhospitalcenter.com](http://www.berwickhospitalcenter.com) website as well.

Staffing levels are being monitored on a daily basis. The above plan and dates of service termination are contingent upon adequate staffing so as not to jeopardize patient safety.

Additional updates will be added to [www.berwickhospitalcenter.com](http://www.berwickhospitalcenter.com) if there are new developments.