



ORMC Sale to the Prime Healthcare Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Oconee Regional Medical Center (ORMC) being sold?

Recognizing the critical role the hospital plays in our community, but facing significant financial challenges, our leadership began working in earnest three years ago to determine a path forward that would allow for not only continued but improved operations, expanded services, and potential capital improvements. After extensive review, we concluded that identifying a partner to purchase the hospital was the best option. The proposed sale includes the hospital as well as Oconee Regional Health Ventures, Inc.

Who is buying ORMC?

The hospital is being sold to the Prime Healthcare Foundation, a 501(c)3 public charity and affiliate of Prime Healthcare Services, a financially stable health system with a proven track record for improving the operations and financial performance of hospitals across the United States. Prime Healthcare Services and the Prime Healthcare Foundation currently own 44 acute-care hospitals in 14 states, including the not-for-profit Southern Regional Medical Center in Clayton County, which has experienced significant improvements in operations since being acquired in early 2016. Prime is nationally recognized for quality patient care and its hospitals are recognized regularly as among the top in the nation.

What changes can we expect as a result of the sale?

The sale process will take approximately 90 days to complete. During that time, the hospital will maintain its current level of day-to-day operations. Access to quality care remains our top priority and patients should not experience any disruptions during the transition period. Prime shares that commitment to maintaining access to quality care for our patients and our community.

Is Jasper Health Services part of the sale?

Jasper's leadership has chosen to seek a separate path forward for its operations and therefore is not included in the sale. We are committed to supporting a smooth transition so that patients do not experience interruptions in service.

What happens next?

First, as required by Georgia law in the sale or acquisition of a non-profit hospital, there will be a review by the Georgia Attorney General's office that takes up to 90 days. Second, motions for approval of a Section 363 sale proceeding have been filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia. This approach is common, as it allows for the transfer of assets and operations in a relatively short timeframe - approximately 60 days. The restructuring and Attorney General's review of the transaction will run concurrently.

The review by the Attorney General will include a public hearing during which the community will have the opportunity to comment on the sale. The date and location for that hearing will be set at a later date.