

May 13, 1997

Gaston Memorial and Carolinas Medical Center Reach Agreement On Open Heart Surgery

Gaston Memorial Hospital, Carolinas Medical Center, and the State Certificate of Need Section have reached a mutual agreement that will allow open heart surgery services to be performed at Gaston Memorial under a management agreement between the two facilities. This cooperative arrangement between GMH and CMC will permit existing capacity at CMC to be used at GMH in order to increase utilization and improve access to patients. It will be known as The Carolinas Heart Institute-Gastonia. The Sanger Clinic will provide the open heart surgeons.

Both hospitals voiced positive comments that this is a "win/win" relationship. "I have to applaud the Department of Human Resources for allowing the hospitals to implement a creative, effective solution for the needs of our communities," said Wayne F. Shovelin, president of GMH. "By building on the program knowledge and clinical expertise of both CMC and The Sanger Clinic, this will be a high quality program from the day it starts."

"We are excited to have the opportunity to become a CMC-GMH team for open heart surgery services," said Paul S. Franz, president of Carolinas Medical Center. "People in Gaston County have traditionally come to CMC for these services, and having them at GMH will improve access and make them more convenient and closer to the patients' homes."

Under the settlement agreement, Carolinas Medical Center will relocate capacity for one open heart surgery operating room and related equipment to GMH. CMC and GMH will enter into an agreement for the training of staff and management of continuing operations. GMH will also participate in CMC's open heart clinical studies. GMH will modify its designs for its previously approved Southeast Expansion Project to reduce the new construction in that project and the pending application by more than 51,400 square feet with an overall project savings of \$7, 178,000.

CMC and GMH will work out the details over the next few weeks as facility plans are finalized. This agreement settles the pending administrative litigation among the parties.

Through compassionate patient care, innovative medical procedures and a strong sense of community, the Sanger Clinic has built a reputation of trust and stability in the Carolinas. Founded in 1946 by Paul W. Sanger MD, the Sanger Clinic has grown to include an impressive staff of adult and pediatric cardiologists, and cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeons. With 11 locations in both North and South Carolina, the Sanger Clinic offers convenient access to heart care. For more information, visit our website at www.sangerclinic.com