



Scott County, Mississippi

August 30, 2006

## New Medical Clinic In Wal-Mart A First In State

By *CHRIS ALLEN BAKER, Times News Editor*

FOREST--Shoppers in the new Wal-Mart Supercenter will have the opportunity to take care of minor medical needs while browsing the store when "Checkups" opens later next month.

A product of Quick Quality Care, based in New York and Boca Raton, Fla., Checkups will be located in modular space, which it will rent inside the Supercenter. The clinic is scheduled to open when the Supercenter does on Sept. 20 on Mississippi 35 near Interstate 20.

Checkups will be a non-emergency walk-in medical facility using state-of-the-art computer and other electronic devices making visits and patient information as efficient as possible.

"Part of our mission statement is to provide patients with greater availability to health care at a more affordable price," said Dr. Neal Krouse, president and founder, QQC of America, LLC. "Our unique relationship with local physicians allows our nurses to have a doctor on-call as needed, and the doctors benefit from our referrals that drive new patients to their practices."

Patients can also shop in Wal-Mart while they wait and will be notified by pager or be called on their cell phone when their exam is ready to begin. If a prescription is necessary, nurse practitioners can write the prescription and electronically email it to the patients' preferred pharmacy.

Krouse told The Scott County Times that the location in Forest is one of 28 that the company is opening.

"We're doing very well because we're serving a need in America's healthcare community," Krouse said. "We're not the answer, but we're part of the answer to healthcare needs in America."

The after-hours clinic will utilize three nurse practitioners, three medical assistants and the clinic will be in contact with a regular physician using advanced communication equipment, Krouse said.

The clinic is expected to offer patients fast and affordable premium health care without the wait typically associated with a physician's office, traditional walk-in clinic or emergency room, Krouse said.

"We believe our design gives patients a nice warm feeling when they walk in," Krouse said.

The clinic will be specifically designed to treat common ailments like strep throat, ear and sinus infections, routine pediatric care and blood screenings and immunizations, among other services. Since visits typically take under 15 minutes and no appointments are necessary, the clinic will provide medical care for patients looking to take control of their health care in the most affordable and efficient manner.

The clinic uses a paperless and HIPPA-compliant computer system that combines a patient's medical history with a unique diagnostic tool, Krouse said.

When entering the clinic, patients use the Check-In computer kiosk in the waiting area, where they can swipe their driver's license to download personal information into the system. The kiosk has a fingerprint scanner which, when activated, will assist patients when using the Medical History kiosk on future visits. Patients will also be asked other questions about their health to complete their confidential patient record.

News of the clinic's expected arrival reached Lackey Memorial Hospital, sparking a sense of curiosity of how the clinic will affect the community.

Donna Riser, Lackey Memorial Hospital administrator said she felt the new clinic would benefit Forest and Scott County with providing more services for citizens.

"We can always use more clinicians and health care opportunities," Riser said. "Our population here is growing. We have always needed an after-hours clinic. The more access you have to quality health care, the better your community will be."

Riser said that Lackey plans to open its own clinic in October and a publicity campaign is already in the works.

"We are anxious and looking forward to having a good relationship with the new clinic at Wal-Mart," Riser said.