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FEATURED

Pharmacy now available at Open Door

By Brian Arola barola@mankatofreepress.com May 22, 2018



A sign welcomes Open Door Health Center patients to its new pharmacy, operated by Genoa Healthcare. Photo by Brian Arola

The Free Press



MANKATO — Open Door Health Center patients no longer have to go off site to fill their prescriptions.

The health center partnered with Genoa Healthcare to convert their community room into an on-site pharmacy, which had a soft open recently.

Open Door CEO Douglas Jaeger said having the pharmacy at the health center will save patients time.

“Now they can have the convenience as they’re walking out to just pick up their prescription,” he said.

The resource, just to the left of the main entrance, will be staffed by a pharmacist and a pharmacy technician five days per week.

Genoa operates and staffs it, but Regional Director of Operations Bill Wrigley said the site is meant to be an extension of the health system it’s housed within.

“We’re going to tailor things to the needs of Open Door,” Wrigley said. “We want it to feel like our pharmacist is almost part of their staff.”

He said there are benefits to being integrated into Open Door’s operations. For one, questions about prescriptions can be resolved more easily if the medical staff is down the hall. Previously pharmacists offsite would have to call and track down medical staff.

An on-site pharmacy also minimizes any transportation barriers preventing patients from receiving their prescriptions elsewhere. Open Door primarily serves uninsured and underinsured patients.

“It becomes more of a one-stop shop, so the patient seen at the clinic doesn’t have to make an extra trip,” Wrigley said.

Jaeger said Genoa funding covered the cost to convert the community room into the pharmacy. While it was tough to lose the gathering space, he said providing the new service to patients outweighs the loss.

The pharmacy will be a permanent fixture at Open Door. It’s available to patients now, but Jaeger said an official opening ceremony is scheduled for June to showcase it to the rest of the community.

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