

Rural Health Reimagined

Frequently Asked Questions for Gove County Medical Center Patients and Community

HaysMed-GCMC Partnership Announcement

At Gove County Medical Center, we remain deeply committed to providing high-quality, local care for our friends, families, and neighbors. As we prepare to officially enter into a new partnership with Hays Medical Center (HaysMed) in early 2026, we understand you may have questions about what this means for you, your loved ones, and the future of healthcare in our community.

The following FAQs are designed to answer common questions and provide clarity, reassurance, and insight into how this partnership will benefit GCMC patients and the broader Gove County community.

Why is GCMC partnering with HaysMed?

Nearly 60 percent of rural hospitals in Kansas are at risk of closure. Like many small hospitals across the country, GCMC faces growing challenges — workforce shortages, financial pressures, and a need for operational and technological advancements. Partnering with HaysMed ensures:

- Long-term sustainability of hospital services
- Access to more specialty care close to home
- Improved technology and electronic medical records
- Continued local leadership and decision-making

This partnership is about securing the future of healthcare in Gove County. It allows us to continue offering high-quality care, expand services, and strengthen our hospital — all while staying true to our local roots. We are proud to take this step forward *with* our community and *for* our community.

Is HaysMed acquiring GCMC?

No, this is not an acquisition, sale, or merger. It is a collaborative affiliation model that strengthens our local mission while opening doors to broader capabilities. We are excited to deepen our long-standing relationship with HaysMed, an organization that shares our values and vision for advancing rural health in our community. GCMC will remain community-centered and locally governed.

How will this affect patients of GCMC?

As always, GCMC remains your local hospital. You'll still see the same doctors, nurses, and healthcare team. This partnership is about making local care stronger and more sustainable.

Will I need to go to Hays for all my care now?

No. In fact, more services may become available locally as a result of this partnership. Like HaysMed's partnership with Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, we expect more HaysMed specialists will offer appointments right here in Gove County.

Will my medical records be affected?

Over time, GCMC will upgrade to a new, fully integrated electronic health record system through HaysMed. This means:

- Your information will be more accessible to your care team.
- You'll benefit from faster follow-ups and referrals.
- A more robust patient portal will be available for scheduling, test results, and communication.

Will anything change about my insurance or billing?

No changes are expected to your insurance or billing process at this time. If anything changes in the future, we will communicate with you clearly and in advance.

Will this affect local jobs or staff?

This partnership is designed to protect local jobs and expand opportunities, not eliminate them. Our hospital continues to be a major employer and economic engine in Gove County.

Will my tax dollars stay local?

Yes. All local funding, including tax support, remains here in Gove County. Nothing about this partnership changes that.

How will the community stay informed?

As both hospitals work closely together on a smooth and thoughtful transition, we'll continue to share updates through:

- The GCMC website: gcmc.org/rural-health-reimagined
- Social media channels
- Direct communication from hospital leadership