

Convenience And Peace Of Mind

Verandah Retirement Community Opens SWLA's First On-Site Clinic For Residents

Verandah Retirement Community, located on Gray Market Drive in Graywood, recently celebrated the opening of its on-site health clinic for residents. Verandah is the first such facility in SWLA to offer an on-site clinic. While the clinic has been in the facility since January, the grand opening was held March 11.

The clinic is operated by Curana Health, a national healthcare provider that focuses only on geriatric care, says Verandah executive director Tammy Freisen.

The idea behind the addition of the clinic is to give residents access to healthcare services just steps away, eliminating the need for transportation and having to schedule appointments with an outside

clinic.

"Our leadership team recognized that there was a gap in timely, accessible care (for residents in retirement communities and assisted living) and saw the ability to bridge it with an on-site clinic," says Freisen. "And the families of our residents want their loved ones to be in a place where help is always close at hand. We believed that opening an on-site clinic would be a natural next step that would provide a valuable service that reflects our proactive, holistic approach to resident care."

The clinic is staffed by physician assistant Shea LeDoux, who says she chose to work in geriatric care and with Curana because she "noticed a disparity in geriatric care."



Certified medical assistant Joy Fruge, handles scheduling and helps manage the clinic.

While LeDoux is in the clinic Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Fruge is there five days a week. But the clinic is available to residents 24/7.

"We have an after-hours number for residents who need assistance outside of office hours," says Freisen. "Residents have 24/7 access to the clinic."

The clinic provides both primary care, taking care of annual bloodwork, etc., and also urgent care services.

"We're seeing a lot of allergy-related cases right now," says LeDoux. Other common cases are UTIs and fall-related care. The clinic also manages patients'

medications, working closely with patients and their families to manage and coordinate medication needs.

"But our focus is mainly on primary care," says LeDoux. Residents can choose the clinic as their primary care provider or continue to see their outside primary care physician and utilize the clinic for urgent care and support services.

Right now, says LeDoux, the clinic is seeing anywhere from five to 15 patients a day.

The clinic is also available to Verandah staff and their families.

For residents and their caregivers and families, it means peace of mind. Knowing that a loved one is just steps away from a healthcare provider makes all the difference.

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