



Joint Statement from The Newton Clinic and MercyOne Newton Medical Center

To: Patients, Newton Community, Jasper County Leaders, Media

From: Mark Thayer, Newton Clinic Administrator
Chad Kelley, Chief Operating Officer – MercyOne Newton Medical Center

Date: August 30, 2024

Subject: Update to obstetrics recruitment and labor and delivery services in Newton

Due to a decade of significant recruitment and physician workforce challenges, Newton Clinic is announcing they will no longer continue to pursue recruitment of physicians dedicated to obstetrics for labor and delivery services. As a result, maternal care partner MercyOne Newton Medical Center must pause labor and delivery services indefinitely after October 15 to investigate other care models and options to provide obstetric care in our rural areas. MercyOne Newton does not directly employ any physicians but relies on partnering medical groups for physician staffing.

Newton Clinic will be reaching out to patients in their care who are expected to deliver after October 15 to transition them to another birthing facility and/or provider. Mothers scheduled to deliver prior to October 15 will continue to have the excellent care they've been receiving and can deliver in Newton at MercyOne. Newton Clinic is asking all mothers expected to deliver after October 15 to continue their scheduled prenatal care appointments to discuss their care and options for delivery.

As difficult as this decision is, patient safety is of utmost importance to both organizations. Both Newton Clinic and MercyOne Newton Medical Center will continue to commit to the high standards of prescribed and emergency care followed by every care center in Iowa. Appropriate hospital policies and procedures, along with interfacility arrangements, are in place to safely care for and triage all patients.

Nurses employed in the labor and delivery department at MercyOne Newton Medical Center will be offered continued employment in other open nursing positions and departments.

Questions regarding patient care may be directed to Newton Clinic: 641-792-2112.