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# Presby seeks to build Mint Hill hospital

Charlotte Business Journal - July 18, 2006 by [Ashley M. London](#) Staff Writer

**Presbyterian Healthcare** has filed a proposal with state regulators to build a \$90 million hospital in Mint Hill.

The 50-bed community hospital is planned for 21 acres on Albemarle Road at Interstate 485. The site is part of 50 acres Presbyterian already owns in the northeast quadrant of the interchange.

Presbyterian hopes to receive state approval for the project by Jan. 1, with the hospital targeted to open in 2008.

The operation will eventually have 350 employees, Presbyterian says.

Services would include an emergency room with 16 treatment rooms, 30 acute-care medical/surgical beds, 10 observation beds, a four-bed intensive-care unit and four operating rooms.

The Mint Hill hospital also plans to offer labor-and-delivery suites, inpatient and outpatient imaging services such as a 16-slice CT scanner, mobile MRI and cardiac catheterization services.

The Mint Hill area's population is steadily rising, notes Mark Billings, Presbyterian vice president of growth and development. "We have been watching the growth and projected growth for a number of years."

Mint Hill has 138,000 residents, he says, and the area has seen 11 percent to 12 percent increases in its population over the last three years. That double-digit growth trend is expected to continue through 2010, Billings adds.

On Monday, Presbyterian filed a request with the N.C. Department of Environmental Control, Division of Health and Human Services for a certificate of need to build the hospital.

The state's certificate of need law prohibits health-care providers from acquiring, replacing or adding certain facilities and equipment without state approval. The law is intended to reduce unnecessary increases in health-care costs by eliminating duplication of medical facilities, services and equipment.

Presbyterian has had multiple physician practices in the Mint Hill area since the early 1990s.

"We have done a great deal of due diligence," Billings says. "We think people in that part of southeastern Mecklenburg County deserve to have Presbyterian-quality health care."

The Mint Hill site is 11 miles from Presbyterian's flagship hospital in Charlotte.

The proposed facility would feature many of the amenities offered at Presbyterian's year-old Huntersville hospital, including wireless Internet, Jacuzzi baths in delivery rooms and room service.

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"During the development of (Huntersville), we partnered with community leaders and residents to ensure that the hospital we constructed was designed according to what citizens wanted," Billings says. "Similarly, we will host public forums to get input about what the community wants from Presbyterian Hospital Mint Hill."

Presbyterian plans to fund the project through reserves at Winston-Salem-based parent **Novant Health Inc.**, though it could sell bonds as well, says Kati Everett, Presbyterian spokeswoman.

To date, Presbyterian is the only Charlotte hospital system to apply for permission to build in Mint Hill.

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