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GLH Selected for Rural Community Demonstration Program

GREENWOOD, APRIL 24, 2025 — Greenwood Leflore Hospital (GLH) has been designated by the CMS Innovation Center for the Rural Community Demonstration Program (RCHD) based on the application submitted by the hospital on February 27, 2025. GLH has elected to participate in the program effective May 1, 2025, which is the first available date for participation.

Under the RCHD designation, the hospital will begin receiving cost-based Medicare payments for inpatient services, rather than the fixed rate (below cost) level that it has been receiving. This designation also qualifies the hospital for a swing bed (skilled care) unit, which the hospital anticipates opening later this calendar year. The opening of this service line will allow the hospital to increase patient admissions.

According to Gary Marchand, the hospital's interim CEO, "RCHD's cost-based payments will help maintain the hospital's capabilities to meet the inpatient care needs of Medicare beneficiaries. In addition, the hospital will start the process of opening its skilled care services that will facilitate a patient's return to their home environment. Offering skilled care is a key component of our growth strategy."

While the financial impact has not been quantified at this point, this additional funding will help stabilize hospital services for the long term.