

Medical mall tenants nearly fill old Barnert Hospital

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The issue: Medical groups, a pharmacy, coffee shop and other enterprises are moving into the old Barnert Hospital in [Paterson](#), which went bankrupt and closed last February. The 300,000-square-foot, six-story building is being gutted and retrofitted to provide treatment and services.

Background: Six physician practices now have offices in the building, including a medical oncology group, a breast cancer detection center, a pulmonary group and internal medicine doctors. Overall, about 90 percent of the space is under contract through a signed lease or letter of intent, said Steve Kirby, a partner with Community Healthcare Associates LLC, which owns the building.

When the more than century-old Barnert Hospital on Broadway closed, residents lamented the departure of physicians and acute-care services. But the medical mall will provide needed services, including an adult day-care center, a sub-acute rehabilitation center and group practices that provide primary care, Kirby said. Besides medical offices, the [Paterson](#) Jewish Historical Society has moved in.

Contractors have replaced the heating and air-conditioning system, Kirby said. "We're surprised at how much we had to do to the hospital," Kirby said. "The building had to be completely retrofitted and some of the floors are being completely gutted."

What's next: Later this month, a pharmacy and coffee shop are expected to open on the first floor. By the end of October, the adult day-care center is scheduled to open. A sub-acute rehabilitation facility with 54 beds is expected to open in November. It will also have 10 hospice beds, Kirby said.

— Mary Jo Layton