

ShopKo, Bellin Health to open retail clinics

GREEN BAY, Wis. - May 18, 2006

ShopKo and integrated health care delivery system Bellin Health announced today a joint effort to open retail clinics in two Green Bay area ShopKo stores, with the possible expansion to other ShopKo stores throughout the nation.

Called FastCare, the first two clinics will be in the ShopKo store in Bay Park Square Mall and the ShopKo store adjacent to East Town Mall. They are scheduled to open June 17.

The clinics will be staffed with nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and a FastCare visit will cost \$39. Payment can be made at the time of service or, depending on the person's insurance carrier, Bellin will submit a claim for payment. The clinics will treat basic acute, episodic health conditions such as sore throats, fevers, flus and colds, ear and sinus infections, pink eye and allergies.

To ensure quality services Bellin stated it has followed the attributes for retail clinics as defined by the American Academy of Family Physicians. These include offering to send each person's primary care physician a report following the visit, having a well-defined and limited scope of clinical services with treatment plans that are evidence-based and having a system for referring patients to physicians when symptoms exceed the clinic's scope of services.

The clinics will take walk-in patients only, but the companies do not expect a waiting period for patients. Should there be a wait, people can take a silent pager that can be used in the store and will alert them when the provider is ready. Faster pharmacy service will be provided based on immediate transmittal of prescriptions to the ShopKo pharmacy or the pharmacy of the patient's choice.

Should these clinics prove to be successful, both Bellin and ShopKo stated that expansion to other ShopKo stores is a possibility. ShopKo would provide the physical space and Bellin would work with local providers in the communities to provide the health care services.

Today's announcement comes after ShopKo's agreement last week with Medical Marts Group to open retail clinics within ShopKo stores. The first Medical Marts will open late this summer within ShopKo stores in Utah and expand nationally from that area.