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FOR MEDIA INFORMATION

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AdventHealth Gordon receives state approval to expand advanced neonatal care close to home

Proposed four-bed Level II NICU will strengthen care for mothers, babies, and families across Northwest Georgia

CALHOUN, Ga. – Families in Gordon County and across Northwest Georgia are one step closer to having access to advanced newborn care closer to home.

The Georgia Department of Community Health has issued AdventHealth Gordon a Certificate of Need to establish a four-bed Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit within the hospital's existing Women's Services Area. The approval remains subject to the standard 30-day appeal period.

"This approval marks an important milestone in AdventHealth's commitment to the families of Northwest Georgia," said Justin Birmele, president and CEO of AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray. "Aligning with our mission, our goal is to bring high-quality, compassionate care close to home, especially during moments when people need that support most. A Level II NICU would strengthen the care available to mothers and babies in Calhoun while helping families remain together."

AdventHealth Gordon is the only hospital in Gordon County and an important access point for obstetric and newborn care. The proposed Level II NICU will allow more newborns who need additional medical support after birth to receive specialized care at AdventHealth Gordon while remaining closer to their mothers, families, and care teams.

The unit will also strengthen continuity throughout the newborn care journey, supporting timely monitoring, parental education, bonding, breastfeeding support, and discharge planning.

"When a baby needs extra support after delivery, having the right care available close to the mother can make a meaningful difference for the entire family," said Nicholas Wells, MD, neonatologist and vice president and chief medical officer of AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray. "A Level II NICU would give our care teams greater ability to

provide specialized neonatal care here in Calhoun while helping parents remain present and involved in their baby's care from the very beginning."

The project reflects AdventHealth's continued commitment to expanding access to high-quality, whole-person healthcare across Northwest Georgia. As a faith-based not-for-profit organization, AdventHealth is focused on growing thoughtfully alongside its communities and helping more people receive compassionate care close to the people and support systems that matter most.

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About AdventHealth

AdventHealth is a connected network of care that helps people feel whole – body, mind and spirit. More than 105,000 team members across a national footprint provide whole-person care for millions of people annually through more than 2,000 care sites that include hospitals, physician practices, ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, hospice centers, the AdventHealth app and more. Our wholistic approach to improving the health and prosperity of our communities is inspired by our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ.