

## Johnstown to get acute-care facility Hospital opens in '07

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Johnstown will be home to a new advanced care hospital in 2007.

Ernest Health Inc. will construct the Advance Care Hospital of Northern Colorado, a 20-bed long-term acute-care hospital, about one mile east of Interstate 25 and U.S. 34, said Chris Bergh, vice president of marketing for Ernest Health.

"We determined based on our market analysis there is a need for this. The closest facility like this is in Denver," said Bergh, whose company operates in eight states.

The new hospital, which expects to open by July 2007, will treat more complex medical problems dealing with pulmonary and cardiac conditions, as well as other issues, Bergh said.

"It will treat people that have catastrophic or chronic medical conditions that need extended medical time," Bergh said. "In this facility the length of a stay will be 25 days or longer on average."

The hospital will break ground Jan. 4 in the 2534 development east of Interstate 25 in the same campus as the Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital, also owned by Ernest Health.

Bergh said the close proximity of the two hospitals will be beneficial for patients who need to transfer to Advance Care Hospital for more extensive care.

"They (hospitals) will complement each other really. They are two distinct product lines," Bergh said, who added that advance Care Hospital will work with hospitals from all over the region from Loveland to Fort Collins.

Maury Dobbie, president and CEO for Northern Colorado Economic Development Corp., which helped bring the Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital to Johnstown, said the new hospital will benefit the region on many different levels.

"They are projecting 50 new jobs and plan to hire within the area," Dobbie said. "It will help take patients from other facilities. This is all good for everybody."