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IN THE NEW SPECIALITY CLINIC at the Decatur County Hospital, Donna Guinn (below) waited on patients at the receptionist's desk. Deb Klima, a respiratory therapist (above), worked with Brooke Ford, Dr. Daniel McGowan's nurse from Kearney, Neb., and Jean Ann Leitner in one of the new offices in the clinic.
— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

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Specialty clinic opens at hospital

By
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Doors to a new specialty clinic addition at the Decatur County Hospital opened at the end of the year, offering traveling doctors a place to meet with patients and do consultations in private.

The addition was built on the east side of the hospital, near the entrance to the emergency room, said Administrator Lynn Doeden.

The specialty clinic boasts a waiting room with a check-in desk, a stress-test room with a bed and treadmill, a procedure room with a bed, a restroom, a storage area, two exam rooms with tables and two offices.

Every month, doctors travel to Oberlin to see patients. The fields covered include cardiology (heart), urology (urinary tract), oncology (cancer), podiatrist (foot specialist) and surgery, said Mrs. Doeden.

The hospital wants to expand the services to



also provide clinics for a neurologist (nerve) and plastic surgeon.

Nurses from the hospital are scheduled to work in the clinic, she said, and they hope to keep the same nurses working with the same doctors.

It cost \$800,000 to build the addition, she said, and the hospital received a \$650,000 loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration. The other \$150,000, said Mrs. Doeden, was paid for by funds through the county hospital board.

Specialty clinics, she said, are important because it saves patients from having to travel to other towns.

Before the addition was built, the specialists often had to meet with patients in the hallway or use whatever room was available, she said. With the addition, said Mrs. Doeden, that doesn't happen anymore.