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Hospital to offer array of medical services that have not been available

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Local residents will have access to an array of medical services never before available here on a permanent basis when the new hospital opens.

Patients can have nuclear scans of vascular organs done here instead of traveling to Lubbock or elsewhere for those services.

A new CT scanner will provide doctors with a better view of internal areas of concern affecting their patients.

X-rays taken here will be able to be examined by a radiologist elsewhere in a matter of minutes rather than days.

Those are just a few of the services that will soon be available through the lease-purchase of various medical equipment approved by the Dawson County Hospital District's directors Wednesday morning.

The \$850,000 package of equipment will include:

- a 16-slice CT scanner,
- a completely digital, or computerized, system for handling x-rays,
- a nuclear medicine system,
- a new anesthesia machine, and
- a bone density machine.

Hospital officials also are eyeing the costs and feasibility of obtaining a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine for the new hospital.

The new equipment represents a major step forward for the hospital and for local residents who use the facility, hospital leaders said Wednesday.

"To me this is one of the biggest improvements we've ever had," hospital board Chairman Ray Stephens said.

"This is right up there with building a new hospital. This is a tremendous improvement to the quality of service and the volume of service we can provide."

Author: Russel Skiles