



## Okeene Municipal Hospital (OK)

Okeene Municipal Hospital (Okeene) is a 17-bed critical-access facility in Northwest Oklahoma. The hospital has preserved its strong ties to the community for more than 60 years by maintaining transparency, inviting public discussions, and employing local leaders and board members.

Like many rural communities, the population served by Okeene is changing—the community is getting older, and at the same time, experiencing an influx of individuals who prefer to have their primary communication in Spanish. As Okeene’s community changes, so too must its hospital staff and outreach plans. Hospital leadership is recruiting more Spanish-speaking providers and expanding its existing outpatient group counseling program to reach more seniors. The hospital also aims to increase community education about the differences between traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage and how enrollment in either plan impacts coverage.

For the past two years, like many rural hospitals, Okeene has experienced financial difficulties. The hospital must identify key drivers, like decreased patient volumes and demand, lower cash flow per patient, or otherwise, to determine the best corrective course of action.

Okeene is well-positioned to make improvements by leaning on its already-successful offerings. Its primary care clinic, which is attached to the hospital and staffed by the same providers, is a community pillar that boasts high satisfaction ratings from patients. The clinic can optimize productivity and quality metrics to measure itself against other providers and explore value-based purchasing.

Okeene is managed by SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital, which grants the hospital access to EPIC’s electronic medical records system, chargemaster updates and maintenance, bulk supply purchasing, and telemedicine opportunities. Access to these tools afford the hospital a level of data and support that can be used to further improve processes and care delivery.

CORH looks forward to working with Okeene to compare and implement appropriate financial benchmarking tools, strategize on provider recruitment, and explore other ways to improve performance. With some small changes, Okeene Municipal Hospital can improve its healthcare offerings for the local community.

