

# Santa Cruz hospitals move to consolidate

The debate over whether Dominican Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Community hospitals should have separate cardiac programs will become moot this summer as consolidation of the two units begins.

The move will be the first major consolidation of the two hospitals' services since Dominican bought Community last March. There had been considerable debate about the competing programs, in part because programs that service more patients have a higher success rate. Having two programs cut down on the number of patients each served. Dominican announced it would open a cardiac center in 1988, just before Community opened its center.

Dr. Lee Griffith, Dominican's cardiac surgeon, will serve as medical director of the new consolidated program.

As part of the acquisition, Dominican has decided to consolidate acute-care services at Dominican and sub-acute services

at its Community campus. The hospital decided to make the moves this summer because admission rates tend to be the lowest during the summer months, according to hospital president Sister Julie Hyer.

The drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, The Adrian Center, and the Restorative Care Unit, now located at Dominican, will be transferred to the Community building.

All emergency care services will be at the Dominican building. The emergency department will be enlarged to accommodate the combined volume of the two hospitals. The hospital is planning a new emergency center, with groundbreaking scheduled for early 1991.

Hospital task forces are continuing to meet to consider combining other clinical areas, such as Critical Care, Surgery and Maternal/Child Health. Some of these services may also be consolidated this summer.

—Chela Zabin