

# Dominican closes drug, alcohol treatment center

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SANTA CRUZ — Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital plans to close its alcohol and drug treatment center because the services are

underutilized, the hospital has announced.

Admissions have declined in the Adrian Center's 10-year-old medium-term treatment program, from as many as 10 patients to an

average of only one patient a day, according to hospital spokeswoman Penny Jacobi.

Participation in therapy groups and other outpatient services has also dropped to two or three people

in each group.

Adrian Center will close next month, allowing its current patients to complete treatments. Six

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positions, including the program manager and counselors positions, will be eliminated because of the closure, Jacobi said.

In a statement released Friday, the hospital acknowledged that health insurance companies' reluctance to pay for costly hospital-based chemical dependence treatment has prompted patients to seek residential care and counseling at community-based centers instead.

"With the advent of managed care, and the increasing popularity of other treatment modalities, the trend has been away from inpatient programs and toward non-medical