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Hospitals

Community Hospital 50th Operated By AMI

A major change in hospital ownership in the city of Santa Cruz occurred Thursday when Community Hospital, the only functioning acute care facility actually operated within municipal boundaries, was bought for \$7.7 million by American Medical International (AMI) from the Sundean Foundation.

Since 1959, when the hospital opened, it had been operated by its founder and builder, Harold Sundean. It now becomes the 50th hospital owned or managed by AMI.

Who are the new owners? Are they experienced in the delivery of health care services?

"AMI is the leader in the international delivery of health care services," a company spokesman said. "The investor-owned company has 13,000 fulltime employees worldwide. It provides a wide variety of facility planning, development, management and technical services, as well as a broad range of systems designed to meet the increasingly complex management information, operational and financial control needs of modern health care centers."

'AMI is the leader in international delivery of health care services.'

These services reflect AMI's commitment to quality patient care delivered with maximum cost-effectiveness.

The company owns or manages health care centers in the U.S., England, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America with about 5,650 licensed beds.

In developing health care facilities, AMI's services include evaluation of the type and size of health care centers needed in a particular community or nation. It assists in financing, planning, supervision of design and construction and in equipping and opening health care facilities. It also helps hospitals to meet staff requirements and provides employee training and continuing education programs, systems for purchasing and materials management, and information and accounting for use in planning and controlling costs. These services are offered to reinforce the effectiveness of hospital management teams.

Utilizing knowledge gained in 20 years of experience in its own hospitals, AMI has developed and introduced these specialized services and operating systems which are marketed individually and in combination, the spokesman said.

"This unique 'unbundled' approach to marketing health care services gives AMI the flexibility to design and manage health care delivery programs for clients ranging from small communities to entire nations," he added.

"AMI services currently are meeting the specific requirements of clients in approximately 400 communities on five continents."

More than 5,800 licensed physicians and surgeons serve on the medical staffs of the 40 acute care hospitals owned by AMI. The company also provides broad management services to 11 existing and proposed facilities in the U.S., England, France, Egypt and Ecuador with an

aggregate capacity of more than 1,500 beds.

Domestic owned and managed facilities are located in 12 states, primarily in the fast-growing sun-belt region from California across the southern tier of the U. S. into the Southeast.

The company also owns and operates 10 medical office buildings adjacent to its various health care centers.

"AMI's Technical Services plays an important role in providing cost-effective solutions to modern health care service problems and maintaining high quality patient care," the company official said.

The AMI Technical Services Group includes a variety of medical support services involving the use of specialized technical equipment and procedures to help physicians, hospitals and other health care providers improve patient care by applying the latest advances in medical technology.

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For example, AMI employs a mobile CAT brain scanner, a recent AMI innovation in shared medical services, representing potential savings of millions of dollars among hospitals which contract to use a mobile unit rather than incur the expensive burden of buying a scanner for their own exclusive use.

AMI operates cardio-pulmonary diagnostic and therapy departments on a contract basis in more than 230 U. S. hospitals through a subsidiary — Inhalation Therapy Services, Inc., of Lexington, Mass.

The company provides technical consulting in diagnostic X-ray, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, thermography and computerized axial tomography.

"Once a week a group of heart patients arrives at Gatwick Airport near London from Amsterdam," the spokesman said. "They are part of the Dutch national health system's waiting list of 4,500 patients needing open heart surgery. The patients are being operated on, under contract with the Dutch Heart Association, at a hospital owned by AMI and at another hospital managed by AMI . . ."

"In January 1978 AMI signed a contract with the government of Venezuela to deliver a 21-month program to train 3,500 paramedical auxiliary personnel . . . This was the first time a U. S. company had been called upon to train a large scale indigenous cadre of health care specialists for a host country. The contract, amounting to \$5 million, was awarded to AMI by Venezuela's Instituto Nacional De Cooperacion Educativa."

AMI first entered the international health care field in 1970 when it acquired the famous Harley Street Clinic in London. It built the Princess Grace Hospital in Lonon London in 1977. Elsewhere, abroad, it acquired a 100-bed facility called the Clinique Cecil in Switzerland, a 104 bed hospital in Nice, France, followed by acquisition of a 50-bed hospital nearby.