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Crestview pharmacy opens to serve long-term care centers

Average resident takes up to 10 medications a day, pharmacist says

By **CHRIS SEGAL**
Florida Freedom Newspapers

CRESTVIEW — A new institutional pharmacy began operations in May to serve long-term care facilities from Pensacola to Tallahassee.

Guardian Pharmacy LLC is one of the largest institutional pharmacy companies in the United States. Its new partnership with owner/pharmacist Robert Dunn has allowed the company to expand its footprint in Florida.

Guardian Pharmacy is a full-service pharmacy

that focuses on long-term patients and delivery to their residential facilities.

The average resident in a long-term care facility takes up to 10 medications a day, Dunn said.

“We cater solely to long-term care facilities, which can include assisted living facilities, nursing homes and even jails,” Dunn said. “I think the purpose of this partnership is that I wanted to surround myself with good folks like those at Guardian.”

Guardian pharmacies serve more than 35,000 patients nationally, including

more than 7,000 patients in Florida through locations in Daytona, Jacksonville, Pompano Beach and Tampa.

The Crestview location will be able to serve some of the more than 8,700 long-term care facilities throughout Northwest Florida.

“One of the neat things about this community is that you can walk into City Hall and meet the mayor and sit down and talk about your new business,” Dunn said of his new venture in Crestview. “We are an employer here and we will hire folks,

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Crestview pharmacist Robert Dunn has partnered with Guardian Pharmacy to specialize in serving long-term care facilities from Tallahassee to Pensacola.

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have a presence here and will have an impact.”

Dunn has a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from the University of Mississippi and has more than six years of pharmacy management experience.

“Long-term care and nursing homes have a lot of clinical needs,” Dunn said. “We are not your CVS type of pharmacy. It’s a lot more sophisticated, and we have to wear a lot of different hats.”

The partnership between Dunn and Guardian allows for local management and decisions, while having the support of a national company for information technology, finance, administrative and payroll support.

“The partners maintain a significant ownership stake, which creates a highly motivated, integrated team working to achieve a common objective, superior customer service,” Guardian Pharmacy CEO and co-founder Fred Burke said in a news release.

Dunn attributes the independence to run his business as one reason he partnered with Guardian.

The pharmacy now serves about five long-term care facilities in Northwest Florida.

Summit Care, which operates 12 specialized care and nursing homes — including several in the Crestview pharmacy’s coverage area — is switching over its Panhandle facilities with about 500 patients to Guardian for services.

“Having a quality pharmacy is important to our residents,” said Nancy Barfield, director of clinical service for Summit Care. “Our main reason for switching to the pharmacy located in Crestview is for better delivery times, so the location has made a big difference.”