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## **ETMC makes significant financial impact on community**

*By admin*

Published: 07/05/2012 - 15:13

The story of ETMC Crockett exemplifies the ETMC strategy: to provide care in rural areas wherever possible, and to bring as many healthcare services to where people live in East Texas, instead of requiring people to travel to Tyler.

Providing healthcare services to the areas where patients live allows people to receive advanced medical care right at home. And that's better for the patients, their families and the quality of life in communities across the region.

"We don't often think about the quality of our local healthcare services until we or a loved one needs them," noted ETMC Crockett Administrator Terry Cutler. "In Crockett, we are fortunate that community leaders chose to partner with the leading healthcare system in East Texas. The ETMC system has invested millions of dollars into this facility, and it shows. Crockett has a hospital that can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with any other hospital in towns

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our size, anywhere, and our citizens can rest assured that when their time of need arises, ETMC Crockett is equipped to care for them.”

Improvement happens incrementally – almost imperceptibly – when it is woven into the day-to-day activities of a hospital. Yet one needs only to stop and reflect upon the past 15 years to realize the dramatic improvements made to HoustonCounty’s healthcare services.

Since the hospital’s affiliation with the East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System, ETMC Crockett has:

- Built 11,000 square feet of ambulatory diagnostic center space and 25,000 square feet of medical office space
- Opened the Angelina College School of Vocational Nursing at ETMC Crockett, in conjunction with AngelinaCollege, the Houston County Hospital District and the ETMC Crockett medical staff. This program has provided career opportunity and economic benefit to graduates and helped HoustonCounty proactively address the nationwide shortage of nurses.
- In conjunction with the Houston County Hospital District, opened a beautiful Family Birthplace with comfortable labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum rooms. A surgical suite for cesarean section is nearby, and a Level 1 nursery supports the needs of newborns, when the family needs rest.
- Added advanced radiology equipment including an MRI and 64-slice CT. The CT features advanced radiology technology that produces split-second high quality images, permitting doctors to see more anatomical detail in a fraction of the time needed for other tests. In addition to the MRI and 64-slice CT, many other imaging capabilities are available in the hospital’s radiology department, including ultrasound, nuclear medicine, mammography and X-ray. Advances in the department also include a state-of-the-art centralized scheduling system that enhances the process of delivering exceptional patient care and procedures.
- Enhanced other areas of the facility to create a more comfortable and welcoming environment, such as expanding the hospital cafeteria, creating additional waiting room space and adding a covered entrance to protect visitors from inclement weather.

A variety of other diagnostic services are available locally, including a fully-equipped cardiopulmonary laboratory, offering stress tests, EEG, and EKG. A GI lab provides an array of endoscopy procedures, such as colonoscopy, and upper and lower GI scope procedures. The hospital’s full-service laboratory quickly provides vital diagnostic information to the patient’s physician. The hospital also continues to maintain a full-service pharmacy.

ETMC First Physicians Clinic, located on the second floor of the medical office building on the hospital campus houses Michael Cochran, MD, who is board-certified in family medicine; Bob Carlson, MD, FACS, a board certified general surgeon; Ravi Konidala, MD, board-certified in family medicine; Craig McMullen, MD, a family medicine

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physician who specializes in pediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics, Perry Little, MD, a board-certified family medicine physician, and Tim Meyer, PA-C, a certified physician assistant.

ETMC Crockett also offers home health services, physical, occupational and respiratory therapy and outpatient cardiac rehabilitation.

When a higher level of care is required, ETMC Crockett can call on the system's flagship hospital, ETMC Tyler. As the area's largest regional referral center, ETMC Tyler is a self-owned, not-for-profit facility specializing in acute care medicine and offering a "continuum of care" approach designed to provide all major medical services from diagnosis through rehabilitation.

Regional centers of excellence offered through ETMC Tyler include the ETMCRehabilitationCenter, the ETMC Neurological Institute, the ETMC Cancer Institute, and the ETMC Cardiovascular Institute.

For more information on the ETMC Regional Healthcare System and the services offered at ETMC Crockett, call HealthFirst: 1-800-648-8141, or visit on the internet, [www.etmc.org](http://www.etmc.org) .

ETMC is a not-for-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life in communities throughout East Texas.

Other ETMC facilities include hospitals in Athens, Carthage, Clarksville, Fairfield, Gilmer, Henderson, Jacksonville, Mount Vernon, Pittsburg, Quitman, Trinity and Tyler.