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The **Sebastopol Community Health Center** has doubled in size over the past two years and has added two specialists as it continues to expand.

The center, opened two years ago as the first clinic among the **West County Health Centers** to have all electronic medical records, is expecting an increase of 1,500 patients in the near future on top of the 4,500 already served, according to **Jennifer Neeley**, fundraising manager for West County Health Centers.

“We were the first community health center in the region to implement an electronic health record, we work with other clinics in the **Redwood Community Health Coalition** who are preparing for implementation,” Neeley said, adding that the electronic records were made possible through a series of grants and stimulus monies made available for federally qualified health centers.

The five clinics of West County Health Centers – **Russian River Health Center, Occidental Area Health Center, Russian River Dental Clinic and Mental Health Services, Forestville Teen Clinic**, and the **Sebastopol Community Health Center** currently serve about 12,000 patients with 48,000 visits per year.

The new specialists work in areas of orthopedics and general surgery.

“Many of our patients have chronic illnesses and having specialty care available is very helpful,” Neeley said. “The majority of our patients are low income and uninsured, and that number continues to grow.”

The center in Sebastopol is also hoping to attract more specialists in the near future, in areas of cardiology, psychiatry and neurology, Neeley said.

The center has also physically expanded, with the lease of 3500-square feet in office space to accommodate the increase in patient volume, Neeley said.

**West County Health Centers** five sites, serving primarily low income and uninsured patients, expects to reach an operating budget of over \$8 million, with about \$1 million in uncompensated care annually.

“It’s very difficult to find doctors that will take Medi-Cal patients. So with the expansion, we’re able to attract specialists here. It makes it easier for our other clinics to refer our patients to Sebastopol,” Neeley said, adding that the patient population tends to have transportation issues and it’s easier to have providers locally than try to commute to San Francisco.

The five centers cover an area of 770 square miles in mostly rural West Sonoma County. To learn more about West County Health Centers please visit [www.wchealth.org](http://www.wchealth.org)