



February 2026

LONGSTREET OFFICIALLY JOINS NGHS

February 1 marks the beginning of a new journey that's been decades in the making, as Longstreet Clinic officially joins Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) after 30 years of shared history.

"We are proud of everything that we have achieved together so far, from the front lines to the board room," said **Robert Richard, M.D., FACS**, bariatric surgeon and president & chairman of Longstreet Clinic. "We have learned a lot together. As we officially go live and begin this deeper alignment with our longtime strategic partner, we look forward to providing a more seamless patient experience and continuing to enhance the quality of care we provide."

While behind the scenes some processes are changing, many of the day-to-day realities could be considered "business as usual." For example, Longstreet Clinic's name and logo remain, our Longstreet Clinic team still greets patients as they enter our same office doors, and we continue to provide compassionate, quality care in all that we do. We look to the future with excitement, knowing we will have the ability to expand services and better positioned to meet the needs of our community.

"Any time you take a successful, multi-specialty group that's as established as Longstreet Clinic and integrate it with a complex, multi-hospital health system like NGHS, process changes are inevitable," said **Chad Copper, M.D., FACS**, a general surgeon who has



been a member of the physician-led implementation team. "On behalf of the Longstreet Clinic leadership team, we want our staff to know how much we appreciate their time and attention to detail to minimize the impact on our patients during this transition."

Longstreet Clinic has been a key healthcare provider since 1995, when eight single-specialty practices joined together to start the group. As we start our fourth decade together we can look back with pride at what we have achieved, and as we look ahead, recognize that we have not accomplished this alone.

Along the way, Longstreet and NGHS have worked closely together to care for the community through many partnerships:

- **Oncology services:** Including expansion into Braselton and

Toccoa with co-located services with NGPG providers.

- **Epic:** Since 2019 we've been live on this shared platform with our regional partners
- **The clinically integrated HP2 network:** Working alongside Northeast Georgia Physicians Group, Georgia (continued on page 2)

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LONGSTREET
CLINIC
JOINS
NGHS
TO
REDEFINE
CARE
TOGETHER

LONGSTREET OFFICIALLY JOINS NGHS (CONTINUED)

(continued from page 2) Heart Institute to improve value-based performance contracts, improving outcomes while reducing costs for all.

• Service line development:

Including Neonatology, Perinatology, Robotics, Women's and Children's, Bariatrics, Vascular and more.

"After three decades of working together, we're excited to officially welcome Longstreet Clinic as formal part of our health system," said **Matt Hanley, M.D.**, president and CEO

of NGHS. "It's the natural next step for two organizations that have always aligned toward the NGHS mission of improving the health of our community in all we do. I have no doubt it's the right move for our patients, our providers and the future of healthcare in this region."

"We know the past year has been stressful for our team as we've worked through implementation, from construction projects to operational workflow changes and everything in-between. But there also is much to celebrate – our team has rallied together in a way that has

made me proud and a testament to who we are as an organization. We have also appreciated the support of the NGHS implementation team who helped us work through these changes – a process that has truly deepened our interdependence on one another," says **Mimi Collins, CEO** of Longstreet Clinic. "I am grateful to everyone involved and proud of where we are today. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all you have done and will continue to do each day, in every interaction, for our patients and their families and the communities we serve together."

WELCOME NEW PROVIDERS!

Longstreet Clinic recently welcomed three new advanced practice providers to our team. Make sure to say "hello" if you see them around!



PETER EDBLAD, PA-C
Orthopedics



ALLISON MARIEN, FNP-C
Family Medicine



WESLEY ZILA, PA-C
Vascular & Vein



**Join us for our
NGHS VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
Tuesday, February 3**

We offer two sessions:

7:30 AM or NOON

Matt Hanley, NGHS president and CEO, is hosting a 30-minute virtual Town Hall. Matt will begin each session with a systemwide update, followed by Q&A. You can register for either session on [Connect \(nghs.sharepoint.com\)](http://nghs.sharepoint.com) and submit a question in advance. If you are unable to join live, we will post a recording on Connect by Friday, February 6.

After this edition of the Longstreet Beat, you will be able to access the latest news and updates on the [NGHS intranet page called Connect](#). We will also be starting a new Longstreet Beat monthly email. More information coming soon.

COMPUTER LOG IN INFORMATION

Need help or a reminder of how to log into your Longstreet Clinic computer via the new NGHS system? Click here to access step-by-step instructions. Additionally, we have included information on how to log into Connect, which is the Health System's internal information hub for employee communication.



GO-LIVE IS HERE

SUPPORT:

There will be a number of resources to help ensure a smooth transition. We will open a Command Center, provide at-the-elbow rounding and offer 24/7 Help Desk support.

Be sure to report any issues to NGHS' Help Desk: **770-219-6800**

NGHS' INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION SERVICES



Beginning February 1, Longstreet Clinic will use NGHS' interpreting and translation services to communicate with patients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), who are deaf or hard of hearing, or have vision or communication impairments. These services are offered to patients free of charge. **If communication impacts care, consent or safety, an interpreter is needed.**

Longstreet Clinic employees and providers will also have access to Propio, NGHS' virtual interpretation services vendor that provides 24/7 remote video interpretation via iPad or phone (770-307-5234) for all languages, including American Sign Language (ASL).

NGHS also has a team of authorized interpreters, including NGHS-qualified medical interpreters, NGHS-approved vendor interpreters and Qualified Bilingual Staff (QBS) who have passed an approved interpreter qualification course. **To learn more, visit Interpreting Services' Connect site or call 770-219-1689.**

REMEMBER: Any use of interpreting services needs to be documented in the patient's chart.

QUESTIONS? Visit Interpreting Services' Connect site for tip sheets and job aids or email gretchen.craft@nghs.com. You can also call NGHS' Medical Interpreter department at **770-219-1689**.



COMMUNICATION:

Email and Connect, NGHS' intranet, are two important communication channels at NGHS.

Be sure to check your NGHS email regularly to make sure you see Workday notifications and other critical communication. (See [instructions for accessing NGHS email and Connect at the QR code above](#))

We share important news and information on Connect, and have a special site for Longstreet Clinic employees. It's also a great resource for things like policies, Workday and Epic tip sheets and Human Resources information.



REDEFINING CARE
together.

