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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Northeast Georgia Health System Signs Lease for Former Sam's Club Location in Oakwood
Health System Plans to Establish Corporate Support Service Center**

OAKWOOD, Ga. – Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) has signed a lease for the former Sam's Club in Oakwood. The System plans to use the space to develop a corporate support service center.

“As our Health System expands and the needs of our support services grow, we have outgrown what our Gainesville campus can accommodate,” says Carol Burrell, President and CEO of NGHS. “Additionally, as we build our new hospital in Braselton, a more central location is needed for support services that will serve both campuses. This location in Oakwood is ideal due to its centrality between Gainesville and Braselton as well as its close proximity to I-985, which is beneficial for future system growth.”

Burrell says the Health System will renovate the building to make it conducive to office functions. The System is designing the space to take advantage of more efficient work flows between departments that can now be positioned together due to the larger space this location offers. The first departments planned to move to the center are Revenue Cycle (handles patient accounts and billing) and Northeast Georgia Physicians Group Administration, including the NGPG Revenue Cycle department (billing office). Over time, additional support departments will join as appropriate. Burrell says approximately 200 employees will work in this building initially.

“We are very pleased that NGHS has chosen this location for their corporate support service center,” says Oakwood Mayor Lamar Scroggs. “The number of employees working here will positively impact our local economy as will the stability of an organization like NGHS. With the development of Thurmon Tanner Parkway, more and more businesses are seeing this area as an ideal location for corporate service development.”

Burrell says renovations to the building will begin this summer, with completion estimated for early 2014.