

Physio back at STEGH

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Physiotherapy services are coming back to St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital.

The hospital announced Thursday it reached agreement on a five-year contract for Talbot Trail Physiotherapy. The space will be known as the Talbot Trail Physiotherapy and Musculoskeletal Center.

The deal reopens a closed physiotherapy pool.

Talbot Trail with offices in St. Thomas and Aylmer was one of the businesses that expressed interest in renting the space from the hospital.

The 22,000 square foot space features a specialized pool used for physiotherapy treatment, room for a gym and three doctors offices.

Unlike the former agreement where Corporate Vitality rented the space for five years, Dr. Lori Teeple, chief of medical staff at the hospital, said the new agreement will introduce multi-disciplinary care as well as physiotherapy services.

The hospital did not renew the contract with Corporate Vitality to continue using the space and it had remained vacant



Chris Streib, left, president of Talbot Trail Physiotherapy and Dr. Lori Teeple, chief of medical staff at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital, announced Thursday Talbot Trail Physiotherapy will operate a physiotherapy clinic at the hospital, the Talbot Trail Physiotherapy and Musculoskeletal Center. (T-J photo)

since March.

"The vision for is for Elgin County to provide multi-disciplinary care," Teeple said making a joint announcement with Chris Streib, president of Talbot Trail Physiotherapy.

Coming to work with Talbot Trail Physiotherapy will be a rheumatologist and orthopedic surgeon who will be independent doctors.

"We are very pleased to be working with Talbot Trail Physiotherapy," Teeple said.

While STEGH provides

the space to rent to provide outpatient physiotherapy, it doesn't have the funding to provide it in-house, Teeple said.

The custom built physiotherapy pool in the space was a big draw for Talbot Trail to express an interest in becoming a tenant said Streib.

"The pool is exceptional," he said, adding it's not something one would expect to see in a private physiotherapy practice.

Streib said the Talbot Trail offices will likely be open five days a week.

The hospital did some repairs on pumps around the pool as part of its agreement to rent the space.

"We're really looking to grow this facility," Streib said.

Initial plans are to bring in up to eight staff. Streib believes the clinic can make a significant impact on wait times for physiotherapy in the community.

"They will no longer have to wait two years," he said.

Teeple said the hospital sought out interested parties who might want to rent the space.

Five applied, but in the end, the hospital wanted a tenant that offered health-related services.

"We looked for something that would mesh with what the hospital was doing," she said.