

Free Primary Health Care for Snyder's Employees

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Snyder's of Hanover is dishing out a big perk to employees, one they hope can save time and money.

At their Hanover location, Snyder's of Hanover employs about 800 people. All of those folks now have free primary medical care. A clinic opened up Monday just for them. Employees are impressed.

Employee Jason Duvall said, "It makes it convenient, you can run over on your lunch hour during a break, we're only a couple of minutes from here."

Right on the door is says who this office is for, Snyder's employees and their families. And it's all free. "We understand that if a medical condition is caught early, it improves the quality of life of the associate, and it also reduces their cost and the company cost," said John Bartman, Vice President of Human Resources for Snyder's of Hanover.

He says it's a bold step, and some other big time companies are providing similar health care. Bartman says it's worth it for his company. "We also know that there are a number of associates that have not been to a doctor in many many years, and therefore, they don't have any idea what their cholesterol levels are or what their blood sugar levels are."

Snyder's Employee Emily Berwager said, "I can speak personally, for me it was. It had been a couple of years since I'd been for a physical, so this was an easy way for me to get that, to have that push."

The CareHere clinic at the Hillside Medical Center functions as a primary care physician, plus free x-rays, lab work, and some generic prescriptions.

"Overall it's been perceived very well, and I think some people a skeptical, what's the catch, but once they realize, there really is no catch, it's a free benefit," said Berwager.

Duvall said, "They give back to us, we all work hard, and they want us to be healthy to show up."

Even though the health care is run through Snyder's of Hanover, John Bartman says employees have complete confidentiality in their care. HIPAA rules do apply.

Right now, clinic operates about 32 hours a week, by appointment only. Nurses say there's a promise to get patients in and out of the office in about 20 minutes for most visits so Snyder's employees can get back to work.

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