THE HOSPITAL:
Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton (Mercy NH), a member of Mercy Health Network, is a faith-based, not-for-profit community health care system that offers comprehensive health care services. Our mission is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our community.
Located in New Hampton, Iowa, Mercy NH serves 17,000 residents in and around Chickasaw County. Chickasaw County is predominately rural and heavily dependent on agriculture. In general, rural populations are older, poorer and less educated than their urban counterparts, which brings a higher prevalence of chronic diseases. Medicare payment shortfalls present an additional burden for rural health providers. In fiscal year 2018, 50% of Mercy NH's revenues were generated from Medicare patients. In that same time, Mercy NH provided over $530k in free or discounted care to uninsured or under-insured patients.

THE BENEFITS OF THE 340B PROGRAM:
Mercy NH was careful in conducting our latest Community Health Needs Assessment to gather input from representatives of various minority and underserved individuals including low income/underserved, chronic conditions, and racial/ethnic minority. Mercy NH focused on developing and/or supporting initiatives:

Primary Care Access: We have extended our clinic service hours to be open from 5-7 p.m. 2 days a week to accommodate patients who were having difficulties with the traditional hours serving on average an additional 10 patients per week. A Health Coach and Health Navigator were hired to closely monitor chronic health patients to assist their primary care physician in meeting the patients' needs including coordination of care between hospital and clinic services. This is a non-reimbursable service.

Behavioral Health/Chemical Dependency: Under the theory that mental health issues have been pushed to the county level with no added resources to provide much needed services, Mercy NH is identifying key county stakeholders to form or strengthen a county behavioral coalition. Mercy NH supports this coalition in developing and implementing programs to support local mental health issues. A renovation project is under way for the emergency department, which will include a psychiatric exam room to keep our mental health patients safe while they are in the Emergency Department. In FY18 there were 445 ER visits with a Mental Health/substance abuse diagnosis attached to it.

Subsidized Services: Mercy NH is the sole community provider offering a range of specialized services, diabetes and nutrition education, and an Emergency Center. Emergency services are available to all regardless of their ability to pay. Emergency, obstetric and diabetic services are provided at a financial loss, but are critically needed services. There were more than 2,300 ER visits, 65 babies born and 81 diabetics educated locally in FY18.
IMPACT IF THE PROGRAM WAS SCALED BACK:
It is clear that Mercy NH's contribution to supporting and providing services with other health care agencies and services is valued. As the sole provider of specialized services, it would be a loss of these services as well as an economic detriment to New Hampton and Chickasaw County if these programs weren't viable. The people would have to travel 20 miles or more for these vital services or the need could fall to governmental organizations to fill the void.