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## Hospital may close Easley deal in May

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Greenville Hospital System University Medical System hopes to close on the Palmetto Health Baptist Easley deal by the end of May, CEO Michael Riordan told trustees Tuesday.

GHS and Palmetto Health last month formed a new corporation to run the Pickens County hospital. The plan calls for GHS to pay \$45 million for a 50-percent inter-

est in the Easley facility.

Hospital general counsel Joseph J. Blake Jr. said the closing date depends on whether any third-party approvals, for example a certificate of need or any financial consent, are required and whether they can be completed by May 30. The corporate structure still must be determined as well, he said.

But "both would like to move on it as soon as possible," he said.

Under the arrangement, the

hospital will be run by a new board of directors, half seated by GHS and half by Baptist Easley.

GHS has 1,268 beds over five campuses and a budget of \$1.2 billion. Baptist Easley, which is moving forward with plans for a \$32 million, 100,000-square-foot outpatient center on State 153 in Powdersville, has 109 beds and annual revenues of \$260 million.

Blake said hospital operations during the change should be seamless.