



## **BUSINESS**

### **Clinics expanding beyond groceries**

Irving-based MedBasics to offer routine care at corner pharmacies

12:00 AM CDT on Wednesday, May 23, 2007

By JASON ROBERSON / The Dallas Morning News  
jroberson@dallasnews.com

MedBasics, an Irving-based company that operates health clinics in Carnival Food Stores, announced Tuesday it will start moving into neighborhood pharmacies.

The company said it will open five clinics by year's end inside USA Drug stores in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee, with a total of 60 openings planned over the next three years in the deal with USA, based in Pine Bluff, Ark.

In addition, MedBasics is expected to announce today that it will expand its grocery store clinic business to Kansas City, with 15 Price Chopper Stores and 13 Hen House Markets.

The company already has two Dallas clinics, inside the Carnival supermarkets on West Illinois and Webb Chapel streets. It plans to open clinics in Fort Worth, Irving and Oak Cliff in August, with a Plano clinic following by November.

The company's clinics are staffed by licensed nurse practitioners and physician's assistants. They offer routine medical services from flu shots to treatments for strep throat. Visits do not require an appointment, normally take 15 minutes and cost \$49 for most services.

Stephen Jones, MedBasics' chief operating officer, said such small clinics are the answer to the nation's uninsured population, especially in Texas, where 1 in 4 people lack coverage.

However, the Texas Medical Association has cautioned against the clinics because they do not require a doctor to be on staff full time.

MedBasics bypasses the problem of attracting and paying for doctors by employing nurses to make final health care judgments.

The company typically spends \$100,000 to open a 400-square-foot clinic inside a grocery and can recoup its investment in less than two years. In comparison, traditional clinics run 4,000 to 5,000 square feet and can cost \$500,000 to build, Mr. Jones said.

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-medbasics\\_23bus.ART.State.Edition1.36d4ca2.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-medbasics_23bus.ART.State.Edition1.36d4ca2.html)