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Mini-Clinic and Pharmacy Right There in Terminal C

By JOE SHARKEY

A start-up company has come up with a way to meld the time spent waiting in a crowded doctor's office or at a pharmacy counter into the time people already spend cooling their heels in airports.

The company, **Harmony Pharmacy and Health Center**, plans to open a combined health center, pharmacy and retail store on Thursday in the shopping concourse of Terminal C at Newark Liberty International Airport. It is the first such retail service at an airport in the United States, the company said.

Customers will be able to walk in for various medical services provided by a nurse-practitioner, who can also write prescriptions. The on-site pharmacy will be able to fill

*Soon that layover
could include a refill
and a flu shot.*

those prescriptions, or any outside prescriptions brought in by passengers or airport employees. And as at most pharmacies, customers will be able to purchase over-the-counter medications, gifts, cosmetics and sundries.

Harmony Pharmacy plans to expand into 15 major airports and, as it establishes its brand among the relatively affluent airline travelers' market, expand into high-end urban and suburban shopping areas in places like Greenwich, Conn.

"This is a concept of marrying a pharmacy with a health center, stressing customer service in a high-end environment," said Kenneth M. Corroon, a former investment banker who is the co-founder of the company, along with Dr. Howard M. Hertz, a physician on Long Island.

Mr. Corroon had to talk loudly to be heard above the whining saws and hammering in the shop as it was being readied to open. Terminal C, which is dominated by Continental

Airlines, has about 90 retail stores and restaurants.

The idea is not new. Some airports in Europe, Canada and elsewhere have retail walk-in medical clinics, sometimes with on-site pharmacies.

In the United States, some airports dispense flu shots and maintain small clinics for employees and emergency treatment of passengers. And in recent years, walk-in retail health centers have opened in big stores like Wal-Mart and in pharmacy chains like CVS.

Mr. Corroon said that Harmony's customers would come from the roughly 24 million passengers who pass through Terminal C each year, as well as the estimated 25,000 employees at the airport's three terminals and adjoining locations. For employees, the pharmacy will deliver to their workplaces.

Amid the construction clatter in the shop, Robert M. Annicharico, Harmony's director of pharmacy operations, surveyed his own niche, a retail counter for taking prescriptions and for consultations, and a back room for storing medicines and filling orders.

With more than 1,100 items, the pharmacy will have a larger inventory than many independent retail drugstores, Mr. Annicharico said.

"When a traveler comes in with a prescription, I need to have it in stock," he said. "I can't tell them to come back tomorrow."

Maureen A. Zampella, a nurse-practitioner who is Harmony's director of nursing, said the medical center would offer treatments for ailments like allergies, urinary infections, colds, flu and bronchitis, and sinus and ear infections, and minor injuries. It will also offer flu shots and other vaccines, simple checkups and services like pregnancy tests.

"Let's say you're a woman traveling with a couple of children, one of whom suddenly has an ear infection," Ms. Zampella said. "Traveling, you're usually stuck. But here, you can walk in and have a child who is sick treated on the spot."

But she added: "Let's be clear. This isn't a hospital. If you walk in here with chest pains, I'm sending you to an emergency room."



Paul Hawthorne for The New York Times

Kenneth M. Corroon, a founder of Harmony Pharmacy and Health Center, with workers at Newark Liberty International Airport.