Patients at Family Practice of Holyoke and Melissa Memorial Hospital will see a new face in the halls if they haven't already.

Deaun Carpenter began orientation Jan. 23 and so far has really enjoyed the people as well as the facility. She was scheduled to officially begin seeing patients this week.

Carpenter enjoys the small-town atmosphere, so Holyoke is an ideal place to work. "I enjoy having the rural setting. I like that a lot," Carpenter said. "You get to know people and their families."

Carpenter is a native of Akron, so accepting a position in Holyoke meant she was just that much closer to "home." Carpenter and husband Larry live in Imperial, Neb. They have three grown children and six granddaughters. She will continue to live in Nebraska and commute to work.

The Carpenters moved to Imperial in 1988 and have lived there all but five years. Wanting to get the feel of a "bigger hospital setting," she decided to move her family to Kearney, Neb. from 1997-2001.

Carpenter received her nursing degree from Mid Plains Community College in North Platte, Neb. in 1995 and just recently finished her nurse practitioner program at the Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. in May.

Newly hired Family Nurse Practitioner Deaun Carpenter, at right, speaks with Lois Carruthers during a meet and greet session Thursday, Feb. 2 at Melissa Memorial Hospital. Carpenter began working in Holyoke Jan. 23.

—Enterprise photo

Prior to earning her nurse practitioner license, she worked as a travel surgery nurse at many smaller hospitals in the area.

Wanting to do more, she decided to obtain her nurse practitioner license.

Carpenter's husband Larry works with center pivot irrigation systems and also has a diesel business in Lamar, Neb.

In her free time, she enjoys bicycling, quilting and traveling—even though she hasn't had much time since she has been going to school.

"She is exactly the type of person we are looking for at Melissa Memorial Hospital," MMH administrator John Ayoub said. "She's an excellent provider and an even better person. She has a great attitude and always puts the patient first and foremost in every medical decision. We're really excited to have her on staff and can't wait for the rest of the community to get to know her and be as impressed as we have been with her."

Carpenter said she is looking forward to helping people get on the road to wellness.

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