

FOUNDATION NEWS

A newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed



SUMMER 2008



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New Emergency Department Coming Soon

Hamilton Memorial's New Emergency Department to add space and increase patient and visitor comfort and privacy.

When Hamilton Memorial Hospital's new Emergency Department is completed, patients and visitors will notice a number of changes and improvements. "One of the first things patients and families will notice in our new Emergency Department is the increase in space. Currently our Emergency Department has 652 square feet which consists of the exam rooms, two very small offices, and a waiting area that is inadequate for family and visitors" stated Randy Dauby, Hamilton Memorial's CEO. "Right now, there is limited space for family members to wait and they often end up standing in the hall outside of the treatment rooms. Our staff and physicians have very limited room to work in, and while we provide excellent care in the Emergency Room, the lack of space in this area often makes it difficult" added Dauby.

"Our new Emergency Department will have 1104 square feet and is designed to provide

our staff with not only more space, but the layout should result in more efficient use of this space" said Dauby. The Emergency Department will consist of four treatment rooms, staff offices, a centrally located Nurses' Station, an entrance for patients being delivered to the hospital by ambulance and a separate waiting room. "This design has a number of benefits to patients, visitors and staff" said Dauby. "For instance, the Nurses Station is designed to allow the Nursing Staff to easily view patients and enable the staff to continually observe patients as they complete their paperwork and receive orders from the physician."

The ambulance entrance allows staff to receive patients from ambulances in one area while family and visitors enter through a separate entrance into the waiting room. Family and visitors will only be allowed in the treatment room when the physicians and staff deem it appropriate. "These separate entrances will provide patients the privacy and security they deserve while giving the physicians and staff the ability to better care for the patients with fewer

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New Emergency Department Coming Soon

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interruptions. This waiting room will have adequate seating for over a dozen family members, restrooms, and easy access to vending machines. Currently, Emergency Department patient's families have to walk through the entire department to get to the restroom and throughout the hospital to get food and drinks" said Dauby.

Another benefit that patients and staff will appreciate is the proximity of the Emergency Department to the other most commonly used departments in an emergency situation. "Most patients who come to the Emergency Department require testing from the Laboratory and Radiology Departments" added Dauby. "Currently, these two departments are a great distance from the Emergency Department. Patients often have to be taken by wheelchair or on a cart through the entire hospital to get to Radiology, and Laboratory staff must continually walk from one end of the hospital to the other to care for patients in the Emergency Department. The new Emergency Department will be located directly across the hallway from the new Laboratory and Radiology Departments and this will allow patients to be treated by the staff in a more timely and efficient manner" said Dauby. "Patients nor staff will no longer be required to travel long distances meaning patients in the Emergency Department needing care will be seen much quicker. I believe this will be a huge improvement in quality and patient satisfaction."

"We have spent a tremendous amount of time over the last few years working with employees, department directors, architects, engineers and others designing the best Emergency Room possible" added Dauby. "I truly feel that our patients and their families will be pleased with what they see and the care they receive when they visit our new Emergency Department."



Hamilton Memorial's Family Clinic Designed with Patient Comfort in mind

Upon completion, Hamilton Memorial's new Family Clinic will provide patients and their families with a modern clinic conveniently located in the Hospital.

"There are a number of features that I think patients will like about the new clinic" said Randy Dauby, Hamilton Memorial's CEO. "The new clinic will have room for five primary care providers plus two specialists to see patients at any one time. Each provider will have three exam rooms of their own and this will be a marked improvement" added Dauby. Currently, Robert Vergara, MD, and Lois Bias, Physician Assistant, share three clinic rooms. While Asuncion Cope, MD, currently shares her three clinic rooms with specialists who see patients at the Hospital several times every week. "The additional space will allow each provider to see patients in a more timely and efficient manner. Patients should be able to be taken to an exam room from the waiting area more quickly as staff will not have to wait as long for rooms to become available" added Dauby. Along with Dr. Vergara, Dr. Cope, and Lois Bias, PA-C, Alec Hood, MD will also have his clinic and office located in the clinic building. For those times that patients do have to wait, there is an expansive waiting room that will seat over 35 individuals with televisions and a children's play area. "We want our patients and their families to be as comfortable as possible and this area was designed with this in mind" said Dauby.

The extra exam rooms will also serve as a recruiting tool when trying to add more specialists. "One of our goals is to bring as many specialists to Hamilton County as possible so residents in our

area do not have to travel anymore than necessary to receive the care they need" said Dauby. "Often when I speak to a specialist and explain to them what the current situation is in regards to having to share exam rooms and that they can only come on certain days due to the clinic rooms being booked up, they often tell me they are not interested. This extra space should remedy this situation and allow us to bring more of the specialists the residents of our area need and desire" added Dauby.

Another positive aspect in regards to the clinic is its location. "The clinic will be located directly off the hospital's new main entrance" said Dauby. "This will give patients easy access to their physician's office and also by walking a short distance down the hallway, the patient can go to the Laboratory, Radiology, and other outpatient services without ever having to leave the facility. Also, the clinic is located directly across from the Emergency Department

so physicians can easily move back and forth from their office to the Emergency Department providing timely care to these patients as well" added Dauby. "The Medical Records Department is also located in this area so patients and physicians have quick access to their medical records."

"Our physicians and staff are excited about our new clinic and I think our patients and their families will appreciate it as well. This entire project was designed with the comfort of our patients, visitors, and staff in mind, and I think this clinic will be a one of the most used areas in the new hospital" said Dauby.

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Hamilton Memorial's New Rehabilitation Therapy Department to feature Therapy Pool and additional services

Rehabilitation Therapy is a vital part of recovery for patients who have sustained an injury or illness, undergone surgery, or for other reasons, may need therapy. "We offer a full range of Therapy Services including Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy to residents of the area" said Denise Browning, Hamilton Memorial's Therapy Director. "Our staff is very focused on helping each patient reach their therapy goals by providing needed therapy treatments in a timely manner.

Most patients who have received treatment in the Therapy Department would agree that this department is one of the busiest areas in the Hospital. Due to the growth in the number of therapy visits over the last few years, Hamilton Memorial's Therapy Department has expanded hours and added additional staff to meet the needs of the patients. "The increase in volumes we have seen in Therapy is a testament to the care our staff provides. We truly care about each patient and their therapy needs and I think patients recognize and appreciate it" added Browning.

Upon completion of the expansion project at Hamilton Memorial, the Therapy Department will be relocated to a different area of the Hospital which will have its own entrance and designated parking for patients near the Therapy entrance. The total space for the Therapy Department will grow from 1200 square feet to 4838 square feet. "I think the parking and entrance will be a great benefit for our patients as will the additional space" stated Browning. "Patients will be able to easily find a parking spot near the Therapy Department and walk a very short distance to receive their treatments. The additional space will allow us to expand our offerings to patients and give much more room to perform treatments"

One of the most exciting additions to Hamilton Memorial Hospital's new and updated facility will be the addition of a Therapy Pool. These types of pools allow those who have difficulty exercising on land to complete exercises in the water without suffering stress on their joints. The Therapy Pool will be 14 feet by 20 feet and 4 to 6 feet deep and is equipped with a lift to assist patients in getting in and out of the pool and jets that create a current for resistance. "We are very excited about adding the new therapy pool. Over the past several summers, we have held some aquatic therapy classes at the city pool, but the new pool will allow us to provide these very beneficial classes and treatment to patients year round. Several of participants from the aquatic therapy class and I traveled to Herrin Hospital to look at this exact pool and they were very impressed" said Browning.

The Rehabilitation Therapy Department will also be adding work hardening/work conditioning. "Work

hardening is designed to simulate tasks that a patient does every day at their work and get them ready to return to their job after an injury or illness" said Browning. "When the building project is complete, we will be able to start a patient with traditional therapy and progress them through a work hardening program with the ultimate goal of having the patient able to return to their job. This will be a great program for members of our community" added Browning.

Another new service that will be located in the Therapy Department will be Cardiac Rehabilitation. Currently, residents of the area must travel to receive Cardiac Rehabilitation services as the closest facilities are located in Mt. Vernon, Harrisburg, and Evansville. "Cardiac Rehabilitation is a vital step in the recovery after a health episode involving the heart as patients who complete a Cardiac Rehabilitation program generally have better outcomes. We have wanted to add this service for several years, but due to space constraints have been unable to do so. Our expansion project will help make this valuable service a reality for our patients" stated Browning.

"As an employee of the Hospital District, I am very excited about the expansion project and what it will mean to the residents of our area. We are building a modern facility with state-of-the-art equipment all designed to benefit our patients. I think they will truly be impressed when this project is complete" added Browning.



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FOR OUR FAMILY, FOR OUR COMMUNITY, FOR OUR FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EXPANSION PROJECT

TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN, CONTACT THE
FOUNDATION OFFICE AT EXT. 213 OR HMHD ADMINISTRATION EXT. 220

ANNUAL FOUNDATION DINNER SET FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008
FOR DETAILS CALL 618-643-2361 EXT. 213

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