

Redlands Community Hospital Opens Expanded Unit for Medical & Surgical Care

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The community of Redlands, CA has a big care focus. Now in its sec-

ond century, the 229-bed Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) recently completed a \$13 million expansion of its second floor, showcasing its medical and surgical patient care

areas. The not-for-profit acute care facility boasts more than 270 board certified physicians, 1400 employees and 300 volunteers, as well as Joint Commission accreditation.



A Patient Room at Redlands Community Hospital

RCH, which serves the residents of Inland Empire, East Valley, San Bernardino Mountains, and San Geronio Pass regions, needed the additional capacity.

Harvey Hansen, Vice President, Professional and General Services, describes the successful project's scope. "Over a three-year project span, we've constructed 24 new patient rooms and remodeled an area that houses 16 beds. The new medical and surgical beds are in an area formerly occupied by our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Maternal Child Unit and GI lab." Those services were relocated in 2008, when the hospital's nearby 73,000 sf, three-story Surgery Center and Maternity and Surgery Services building opened.

The newly expanded 40-bed unit has full telemetry capability. "Whether coming from the Emergency Department or ICU, any patient needing telemetry monitoring has it," Hansen says. In fact, thanks to the new state-of-the-art telemetry system, small devices with the patients allow vitals to be seen throughout the hospital, remotely, via the unit's expanded wireless network. The monitors show the patient's heart rhythm, pulse and oxygen levels. With waterproof pouches, even showering patients can be continuously monitored. Four of the unit's beds meet accessibility codes, including the associated patient bathroom. The unit also has a negative pressure isolation room with an anteroom, making it suitable for pa-

tients with serious infections, even airborne ones such as TB, or for hospice situations where there's a constant visitor presence.

Were there challenges? It's a construction project, so that's a given. But positive attitudes make all the difference. Hansen mentions the flexibility involved in minimizing disruption to staff, patients and care. "We added plumbing and drain lines for the new sinks, showers and toilets. Workers had to access the plumbing from the floor below the construction area, which is where our main lobby is located," he explains. "The contractor simply scheduled workers at night to get it done." He notes that hospital staff and the contractor proved very accommodating throughout the project, regardless of timing or occasional displacement.

Timing didn't deter the project at the outset, either. Despite economic conditions causing concern, the organization opted to move forward because it was in the best long-term interest of patient care. The expansion and upgrade is in accordance with the hospital's Facility Master Plan, as well as due to the results of a health needs assessment. Too, the stand-alone, not-for-profit facility has seen increasing demand for healthcare services in their area. Hospital leadership indicates the demographic trends show that an aging population requires more care services, specifically patient care areas. Additionally, the community has a demand for highly special-

ized medical and surgical care. The Redland hospital's aim is for area residents to be able to get the care they need near where they live and work. Funding through the hospital's foundation and earmarked funds made it possible to see the project through.

In fact, the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation has been instrumental in raising funds to purchase industry-preferred medical surgical beds. "The Stryker S3™ bed adds another safety function to the unit," says Hansen. "It alerts medical staff when a patient moves out of position without assistance." That means the chance of falls is greatly reduced. The bed's technology also allows patients to be weighed without having to move to the scale, and allows for remote monitoring from multiple locations. Such innovative furnishings aren't inexpensive, so donors sponsor part of a bed's cost, and the Foundation provides matching funds. At press time, the enthusiastic response had Redlands expecting to achieve the 40-bed goal by end of January 2012.

"We deeply appreciate the community support for this project," Hansen says. Thanks to that support, their neighbors can rely on Redlands Community Hospital for all their healthcare needs now and through the hospital's second century of service.

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