



New Samaritan hospital coming to Lincoln City

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EXPLAINING THE PLAN FOR 12 INPATIENT ROOMS

At Dr. Lesley Ogden's employee forums last week, many of us heard firsthand about plans for the new Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital, including the idea of having 12 inpatient rooms – eight medical/surgical rooms, two larger intensive care rooms and two labor/delivery rooms. Each room is at least 325 square feet, contains family visiting areas and is within a contiguous area to allow flexing of rooms between levels/types of services based on the patient conditions being presented.

Understandably, this information surprised many of us who had not considered the possibility of our new hospital having fewer inpatient beds. Dr. Ogden explained that the reduction in beds does not mean reducing services offered and does not mean serving fewer patients. Instead, it represents increased efficiencies, sharing and flexibility, and more predictable staffing.

There will be no single-use spaces, enabling us to maximize our use of the space at all times. This means we will have fewer empty beds or idle spaces, which is often the case now. Considering that our average daily census is between 9 to 10 inpatients and that 95 percent of the services performed at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital are outpatient services, the idea of 12 inpatient beds becomes easier to understand. Also, there is a new nurse staffing law in effect and we know that patients who do require hospitalization generally require more care. Therefore, it will be important that we staff the hospital to be compliant with the law and to support our patient acuity. For these reasons, we don't foresee significant staffing changes.

Three key points to keep in mind:

- 1. Outpatient focus:** The trend in health care is toward increased health and wellness through preventive medicine, shifting the concentration of patient care outside of the hospital. This means the new hospital can become a center of health care excellence that focuses on diagnostic, outpatient and emergency services, while continuing to offer much needed inpatient services and resources for specialty care.
- 2. Paradigm shift:** The new hospital will represent big, bold and innovative ideas for delivering health care to our community. By designing a hospital with flexible spaces and collaborative services, the new hospital can continue to offer inpatient and outpatient services, but in a more efficient patient- and family-centered atmosphere. This is an exciting opportunity for hospital staff to participate in a major project that will impact our community for decades to come.
- 3. Communication:** Before the wonderful new Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital can open its doors, change must happen, and the process of change often creates anxiety. Hospital leadership has pledged to communicate often and clearly about upcoming steps. Change may be difficult in the short run, but the end result will be so worthwhile.

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THIS UPDATE OR THE NEW HOSPITAL PROJECT?

Contact Mary Jo Kerlin in PR/Marketing or Ann Shupe in Administration