

Regional Medical Center Construction Update



WASHINGTON COUNTY
HEALTH SYSTEM

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Message from the President and CEO

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to the winter issue of the *Regional Medical Center Construction Update*.

Our goal is to keep you up-to-date with the progress of the new healthcare facility and the patient-centered services that will be available.

The ability to bring advanced medical technology to our region is an important benefit of the new medical center. Hospital staff, working with project planners, is investigating what equipment we can bring with us and what we need to purchase.

Technology is very quickly changing how we deliver healthcare – especially in the imaging field. So, in this issue, you will read about two new imaging systems that will be on-board in the radiology department in the medical center. Both will improve the quality of care we can offer our patients.

As we move into spring, the steel frame will be completed. We'll have a traditional topping out celebration with the construction crews and others in early March. As exciting as it is to see the steel erected, we know that installing the façade, windows, and roofs will bring the medical center to life. In about 20 months, we will welcome staff to their new workplace. Soon after, we will welcome patients and their families to a place of hope and healing.

We are looking forward to serving you in a regional medical center that brings the best of technologies, healthcare professionals, and services together in one place to benefit the well being of our entire region.

With best wishes for your good health,

James P. Hamill
President and CEO

New Imaging Technology: **Quality, Speed, and Comfort**

Physicians and surgeons frequently rely on diagnostic imaging to assist them in deciding a patient's diagnosis and the path of treatment. It is critical that the technology and equipment be the best it can be to provide clear, detailed images.

When the regional medical center opens, the radiology department will have two state-of-the-art technologies available to physicians and their patients. The first is a 3T magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system, which uses magnets and radio waves to take diagnostic pictures of the inside of the body. The second is a SPECT/CT, an advanced computed axial tomography (CT) machine, which uses the injection of radioisotopes and x-rays to create cross section images of the body called slices.

Both technologies will improve the care for patients. They are faster than current technologies. The images that they provide are much clearer and in greater detail than current models. They also allow radiology staff to provide the images to physicians for review more quickly, shortening the wait time for results.

They will offer other improvements that patients will appreciate. The 3T MRI and the SPECT/CT have larger openings that will accommodate patients who weigh up to 500 pounds. Both machines also lower to 21 inches from the floor, making it easier for patients who have problems moving to reach the beds. The MRI has a shorter tunnel, which will help patients who might be claustrophobic get through the procedure with less discomfort. The SPECT/CT has an ultra-thin bed that is six-foot, seven-inches long, making it more comfortable for taller patients.

Quality, speed, and comfort in the new 3T MRI and SPECT/CT will improve the quality of care for patients – an important focus in the new regional medical center.

New Regional Medical Center

What's the Latest?

With the recent completion of the foundation work on the east tower, the project is now completely out of the ground. In addition, detailed installation drawings from subcontractors are being reviewed by

members of the design team and the construction manager's technical staff. The list of equipment for purchase and installation, and for relocation and installation has been finalized. The process we will use to purchase

equipment has been confirmed.

The following table summarizes the current and upcoming construction activities.

Construction Activity	Approximate Start Time	Approximate End Time	Comments
Tower steel erection and concrete floors poured	October 08	March 09	South tower complete; steel complete on west tower; and steel 30 percent complete on east tower
Remaining steel erected and concrete floors poured in surgery, engineering, link to Robinwood Medical Center, and emergency sections of the building	November 08	April 09	In process
Installation of towers' façade, windows, and roof	February 09	August 09	The installation will follow the steel erection sequence.
Installation of remaining masonry, windows, and roof in surgery, engineering, link to Robinwood Medical Center, and emergency sections of the building	February 09	August 09	The installation will follow the steel erection sequence.

What about the Windows?

At a recent meeting in Boonsboro, a participant asked if the windows in the new medical center will be capable of opening and closing.

While having windows that are operational gives patients a sense of control over their environment, it is not a good idea for several reasons. First, for health reasons, it is important to control the temperature and humidity in a hospital. If people can open and close windows at will, it is very difficult to maintain a steady temperature and humidity in some cases affecting the entire system not just the individual room. Second, hospital and building codes require that windows in hospitals cannot be opened more than four inches. This creates frustration on the part of the visitor who wants the window open, often leading to abuse of the window mechanism. It also creates an ongoing maintenance issue. Third, for a given wall opening the amount of glass in a fixed window is much greater than an operating window.

To provide patients and visitors with control over the environment in their rooms, every patient room will have its own thermostat which will operate the heating and cooling systems for that room.



Above - Steel structure is being erected on the portion of the new medical center that will connect to the existing Robinwood Medical Center.



Left - plastic sheeting is being used to enclose areas while fireproofing material is applied and concrete floors are poured.

Below left - a portion of the new facility where white fire-proofing material has been applied to steel work and pre-cast façade panels are being installed.



Save the Date:

March 18th Public Forum

Healthcare in our community is changing rapidly. Regionally, Washington County Hospital is bringing advances in telemedicine that will benefit our patients. The hospital is also providing millions of dollars in low or no cost services to our community to keep it healthy. Come to the hospital's public forum and learn more about these activities as well as the progress of the new regional medical center.

You are cordially invited to attend the Washington County Hospital Public Forum. Admission is free.

When: Wednesday, March 18

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Robinwood Medical Center, Suite 142 *Use the blue entrance.*

Speakers: James P. Hamill, president and CEO of Washington County Hospital and other hospital representatives.

*Please call to confirm you will be attending to 301-790-8663
– we want to be sure that we have plenty of seating.*

Do you have a question or concern?

Many of our readers may have a question or a concern that they'd like answered by hospital staff who are working on the new regional medical center. If you do, please contact Maureen Theriault, director of public relations for Washington County Hospital. You can reach her via email at theriaum@wchsys.org or by phone at 301-790-8950. Questions that readers submit will be answered here in future issues of the *Regional Medical Center Construction Update*.