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St. Luke's new look: Community to get first peek at new Twin Falls hospital

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center is in its new digs. It means more rooms, more privacy, and a new hospital experience for patients and their families in the sprawling building along Pole Line Road in Twin Falls.

"It's not very often a hospital gets to look at their physical environment and look at their current care processes and look at the evidence out there at what are best practices, and re-create yourself," said Amy Bearden, vice president of patient care and the chief nursing officer.



Crews work in the main entrance of the new St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls Wednesday afternoon.

Before the new Twin Falls hospital admits its first patient on May 21, the public will get an early peek this week at the sprawling \$238 million facility on Friday and Saturday.

Here's a sneak peek at what they'll see:

The entrance

Visitors walking into the main entrance will find themselves in a spacious area

where a help desk will point them in the right direction. With plenty of windows and skylights, sunshine streams into the area that also offers a gift shop and coffee shop. There's also a nearby cafeteria with an outdoor patio.

Set behind the main entrance is the admitting area for patients. A row of offices lines the wall, giving patients privacy while they prepare for their hospital stay.

Patient rooms

The hospital rooms are all private, so patients won't have roommates to contend with during their stay. But the benefits go far beyond that. There'll be less foot traffic going through the rooms, which means reduced congestion. Instead of two sets of medical staff, family members and visitors, there's just one, giving patients a quieter environment. Dr. Mark Wright, an orthopedic surgeon at the hospital, said the private rooms are one of the biggest changes from the current hospital. "That will be a great asset to our community and each patient that receives care," he said.

Family members have pullout couches to relax on during visits. There are also blinds that can shutter the room's window facing the hallway, giving the patient less light and a quiet environment with less exposure to the hall traffic outside.

Maternity

For the memorable experience of giving birth, mom is set. Each room in the labor and delivery suite is private, with a comfy chair and couch on hand when dad and the other youngsters come to see the new arrival.

Each room has a closed-off space for storing medical supplies that come in handy if there are complications in delivery. There's also a nursery, and the neonatal intensive care unit has rooms for infants who need extra care before they're ready to go home. With glass-lined fronts, nurses can keep a close eye on their young charges.

There's also a rooftop garden with benches and maple trees when dad needs to get some fresh air.

Pediatrics

The wing for children has youngsters in mind — both for patients and visitors. The beds are a bit smaller, of course, and there are visual reminders that this is the place for youth. On some walls, small, colorful interlocking wheels can be twisted around by idle youngsters. There's also a playroom with toys, a child-sized table and chairs, and a television and DVD player.

Mountain States Tumor Institute

In the Mountain States Tumor Institute cancer center, dubbed “Misty” for MSTI, chemotherapy patients will get treatment in an area with televisions overlooking a garden. A new linear accelerator machine relying on Novalis technology will send concentrated doses of radiation to destroy tumors more quickly.

Intensive care

Intensive-care unit rooms each feature a boom that moves where necessary to bring tubes and intravenous lines to patients. ICU rooms have pull-out beds for family members. The hospital also has critical care rooms, a new feature. They're for patients who don't quite need all the extra attention of intensive care, but aren't ready yet to move to a standard room.

Surgical wing

The rooms are bigger, with a climate-controlled airflow system that keeps the temperature between 55 degrees and 60 degrees. The extra room gives surgeons and medical staff more workflow space.

Emergency room

With 25 rooms, the emergency room is more than double the size of that at the existing hospital. It's a move that hospital officials say will cut down on wait time for people making visits to the ER. The area also has an X-ray machine, and the hospital was designed with CT scanners near the emergency room to speed up diagnosis.

Psych ward

These rooms are designed with patient safety at the forefront, particularly for situations where patients may try to hurt themselves due to illness. Steel walls can cover outlets, the windows have double-paned glass and the showerhead has a small, round design that prevents people from hanging objects — or themselves — from it.