

New HSC Winnipeg Women's Hospital



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New HSC Winnipeg Women's Hospital to open December 1, 2019 *Preparation underway to welcome women, babies and families*

Winnipeg – Construction of HSC Winnipeg Women's Hospital is now substantially complete and on track to open later this year, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced today.

"Women and families from across Manitoba receive excellent care from the dedicated staff at HSC Winnipeg," said Friesen, who toured the facility today. "This new, state-of-the art facility will support the delivery of excellent care for decades to come. We are proud to invest in services and facilities that will meet the health needs of our province today and for future generations."

The new 388,500 square-foot HSC Winnipeg Women's Hospital, located at 665 William Ave., will be home to inpatient and outpatient obstetrical, surgical and medical services currently provided at 735 Notre Dame Ave. It will also bring together the staff and services currently located in HSC's three geographically dispersed neonatal intensive care units (NICU): NICU Orange Bison, NICU Yellow Deer and NICU 735 Notre Dame.

"Women and their families will benefit from the thoughtful design and construction of this facility, which includes elements intended to provide patients with comfort and privacy in addition to excellent care," said Krista Williams, chief health operations officer, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. "Natural light, private baths and areas to accommodate loved ones really make this facility special."

With construction now substantially complete, the focus shifts to the next phases of development, including the installation and testing of information and communication technology infrastructure, the implementation and testing of clinical equipment by clinical engineering staff, and the installation of furniture. The facility is anticipated to open to patients on December 1, 2019.

Throughout the lengthy construction, detailed planning has been ongoing to develop and implement new workflows and robust training programs for staff who will work in the new building.

"While the new facility is physically different than the existing building, we have made every effort to implement changes along the way to minimize the number of new things for staff to learn in the new space," said Lynda Tjaden, director of patient services, Women's Health. "Changes to the model of care in some units were implemented as early as November 2016, and staff are already comfortable and proficient with the new electronic patient record and clinical documentation system introduced late last year."

Changes already implemented include:

- new model of care introduced in November 2016 on the labour-delivery-recovery-postpartum unit – women now labour and deliver in one private room and are relocated to a separate private room for post-partum care
- cross-training of all NICU (Level III) and intermediate care nursery (Level II) staff to be able to care for the full range of neonates who will need care in the new 60-bed mixed-acuity unit
- introduction of electronic patient record and clinical documentation to Women’s Health in November 2018, and plans to implement in NICU in June 2019.

The new facility will continue to support care delivered at sites across the province, and will play an important role in Manitoba’s ongoing health system transformation.

“HSC Winnipeg delivers about half the babies in Winnipeg as well as many babies whose families travel from outside the city. HSC also provides the vast majority of hospital-based pediatric care, and performs most acute gynecologic surgical procedures for the province,” said Lanette Siragusa, chief integration officer, health services and chief nursing officer, Shared Health. “The services offered by the clinical experts at HSC support care for women from across Manitoba, northwestern Ontario and Nunavut, both for patients and their families on-site as well as through virtual and consultative support for patients and health-care providers in many rural and remote communities.”

“These connections between specialized resources in Winnipeg and the care provided outside the perimeter are just one example of how planning provincially and leveraging provincial resources can enhance the care we provide closer to home,” added Siragusa, who is leading the development of Manitoba’s first provincial clinical and preventive services plan.

Despite some delays, the project remains on budget at \$232.9 million.

“Between now and our anticipated opening in December, staff will continue to apply deep clinical and operational knowledge as we prepare to safely and efficiently provide care in the new building,” said Ronan Segrave, interim chief operating officer, HSC Winnipeg.

Intensive training for staff will begin in the summer. Public open houses that will give the community an opportunity to see the building will be offered closer to opening day.

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