

September 8, 2010

Calgary hospital bed expansion

Over the coming months, Alberta Health Services will be opening 132 new beds in three Calgary hospitals – 42 at RGH; 52 at PLC; and 38 at FMC – and will be closing 70 over-complement beds.

The new five-year funding model from the Province has allowed for the \$15.7 million to open these new beds, which will address capacity pressures in the Calgary area and also allow us to expand the care options we provide.

New Acute Care Beds

Facility	# of Beds	Type of Beds	Opening Date
RGH	32	Short Term Convalescent Sub Acute Care Unit - Transition and rehabilitation care to help patients return to the community	Late September
RGH	10	Dementia care	Now Open
PLC	32	Transition care for patients waiting for a community-based bed to become available	Mid-September
PLC	20	Palliative and Hospice care	November
FMC	38	Transition care for patients waiting for a community-based bed to become available	November
Total	132		

Over-Complement Beds

- The closure of 70 over-complement beds includes:
 - 32 over-complement beds (11 at FMC and 21 at PLC) which were closed this summer as patients moved into Garrison Green.
- There is still a need for some over-complement beds to deal with demand. Calgary's three adult acute care hospitals have average occupancy rates of 107 to 110%. 60 over-complement beds will remain open: 28 at FMC, 11 at PLC and 21 at RGH.

New Continuing Care Beds

- Garrison Green, a new 200-bed continuing care living facility in southwest Calgary, opened in July. This helped with patient flow in the Calgary acute care hospitals as many of the new residents had been waiting in hospital for a more appropriate care space to become available.

Staffing

- A mix of 153 full and part-time nursing positions has been created to support these new beds.
- A comprehensive recruitment plan is being developed to assist with the staffing of these new positions. Permanent positions will be posted according to the union contract.