
BACKGROUND

2008OTP0220-001346
Sept. 9, 2008

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Health Services

ABBOTSFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Fraser Health's Abbotsford Regional Hospital serves as an important regional referral hospital for 330,000 residents in the Fraser Valley and provides 150,000 residents of Abbotsford with increased access to acute care, outpatient services, and health information. New or enhanced regional services that reduce travel for specialized care include:

Emergency department

- Quadruple the size of the MSA Hospital emergency department
- Two critical care trauma bays
- New helipad for emergency transport of critical patients

Surgery

- All nine operating rooms (including one dedicated to maternity) are capable of digital global broadcasting

Renal dialysis

- A new unit will reduce travel for kidney patients needing life-saving dialysis in hospital who would previously travel to Surrey or New Westminster

Medical imaging

- New magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine – first MRI in a hospital in the Fraser Valley reduces travel for outpatients and emergency patients who would previously travel to Surrey or New Westminster
- Two new state-of-the-art 64-slice computed tomography (CT) scanners

Mental health and addictions

- Twice the number of inpatient beds and almost twice the outpatient capacity
- A new adolescent psychiatry unit means earlier admission and quicker access to treatment for adolescents with challenging mental illnesses and is only the second such unit in the region

Maternity

- Large private rooms that are family-friendly labour, delivery and recovery rooms

Neonatal intensive care unit

- New capacity to care for high-risk newborns across the region

Acute care for elders

- A specially designed 14-bed unit to help elderly patients maintain a normal living routine during a short period of intensive rehabilitation

Palliative care

- First tertiary palliative care unit in eastern Fraser Valley. Complements the community hospice at Mission Memorial Hospital

Ambulatory care

- Increased outpatient services, including new regional services such as a new breast health clinic, a partnership with the BC Cancer Agency

Health-care professionals

- Double the number of health-care professionals at ARHCC compared to MSA

Increased capacity

Patient Beds	MSA Hospital	ARHCC Opening	Full Capacity
Surgical	36	40	46
Medical	72	80	80
Acute Care for Elders	0	14	14
Oncology	0	5	10
Palliative	0	10	10
Intensive Care Unit	10	7	10
ICU Stepdown	0	6	8
Cardiac Care Unit	0	6	8
Telemetry	12	14	16
Psychiatry	20	27	34
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	6	6
Maternity	18	24	28
Pediatrics	12	12	18
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	8	10	12
Total	188	261	300

Contact: Michelle Stewart
Communications Director
Ministry of Health Services
250 812-5571 (cell)
250 952-1889 (media line)

Fraser Health
Public Affairs
604 450-7881 (media pager)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.