

Intensive Care Units to Consolidate October 1

Saskatoon's three intensive care units will consolidate to two on October 1, when the Saskatoon City Hospital ICU merges into the units at St. Paul's and Royal University Hospitals.

Six working groups have been planning the logistics and patient care protocols for before, during, and after the move. Over the past several months they looked at issues like maintaining safety for the remaining patients at SCH, increasing the standardization of care on all ICU units, equipment transfer, parking issues, measurements of success and the needs of staff during the transition.

"At least 80 per cent of our SCH ICU RN staff have decided to continue as critical care nurses and will be joining the SPH and RUH nursing teams," said Dr. Susan Shaw, Department Head of Adult Critical Care.

"This will allow us to open four to five beds at SPH at the time of the merger and enhance the RN staffing at RUH ICU," she added.

The physician model of care will also change with the consolidation. As part of the new physician model of care

– and upon recommendation from the physician model of care working group - the intensivist at SCH during the consolidation will join the intensivist at St. Paul's, forming a team of two.

Other working groups include: clinical practice; operational processes; a transition monitoring team; success measures; and outreach, stabilization and transfer. Each is charged with specific responsibilities to ensure that patient safety remains paramount. The working groups are also promoting staff involvement and facilitating staff support during the change.

The Region reminds staff that no changes are currently planned for emergency departments in the Region, and that ambulances will continue to route clients to the most appropriate health care facility.

The progressive care unit (PCU) at City Hospital will remain open until a two-site medicine model is implemented in 2009.

The two-site ICU and medicine projects are part of a larger plan designed to build a more sustainable, integrated system by reorganizing services and creating efficiencies to

help address current and future health care needs in Saskatoon Health Region. Other plans include an ambulatory and day procedure focus at Saskatoon City Hospital, a maternal and children's hospital at RUH and a consolidation of orthopaedic and general surgery completed earlier in 2008.

Each project aims to improve quality patient care for our clients, residents and their families by improving efficiency of available resources and standardizing care.

Extensive communication is planned in September with affected staff groups, physicians, units and support teams. The sessions will provide more details and a forum to ask questions before the two-site ICU model is implemented.

Additional information is available through the InfoNet's [service alignment link](#), located on the left side of the InfoNet home page.

Continued: New Nurses

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Nursing Affairs said, "We provided educational sessions for the managers and clinical educators on those units aimed at facilitating a smooth transition for the new staff into the unit."

The Region also provided an extra week and a half of professional integration orientation in addition to usual orientations for new recruits. Helen said "We organized sessions on communications, and how the health system works here, as well as discussions with the SUN, the SRNA

and various Health Region staff. "

For more information about the Philippines and the Region's orientation of the new recruits, please visit the *InfoNet* and select *Nursing Development* from the Departments and Programs menu.

International recruitment is just one of the pillars in the region's recruitment plan. The remaining three are: Our own nursing grads; Recruiting back our own, and Linking aboriginal youth to health careers.

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