Maternity and NICU services coming to MercyOne West Des Moines

Leaders of MercyOne Central Iowa announced plans on Wednesday to open a new maternity center at MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center. This new obstetrics (OB) program will provide inpatient birth and surgical services, which will include the first Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) offered in the metro’s western suburbs. Construction is underway, and the center is expected to open in October 2020.

“The new maternity center and NICU will allow MercyOne to be well-equipped to meet the area’s growing demand and answer the call from our patients and providers to offer this service in the western suburbs,” said MercyOne Central Iowa President Karl Keeler. “We are excited about this new chapter in our history and for many families who will choose to deliver their babies at MercyOne West Des Moines.”

The 30,869-square-foot maternity center will be located on the top floor of MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center. It will include two, state-of-the-art obstetrical surgical suites dedicated for cesarean-section procedures; five private, spacious labor and delivery suites with advanced safety features – including fetal monitoring and infant security systems; and 15 postpartum recovery suites. The design includes comfortable furnishings for overnight guests, a hospitality area, large flat-screen TVs, Bluetooth capability, walk-in showers, whirlpool tubs and other amenities.

“The metro’s western suburbs continue to grow at the fastest rate in Iowa, bringing new residents and families to the area,” said J. Phil Harrop, president and chief operations officer of MercyOne West Des Moines. “We are excited the time is right to offer maternity care to area families and provide specialized care to the most fragile members of our community.”

The NICU will be the first of its kind in the western suburbs. The Level II nursery will provide advanced monitoring and clinical services for premature and ill infants requiring specialized care. This will ensure a safe environment for babies, as well as provide peace of mind for parents. The five-bassinet unit will offer advanced clinical services, leading-edge monitoring technology and specially-trained staff onsite. The NICU will be able to care for infants born at 32 weeks gestation and older.

“We know how important a NICU and on-site specialty care are to families making choices about maternity care, as well as to our physician partners who want to refer patients to our West Des Moines campus,” said Dr. Jona Conklin, maternal–fetal medicine specialist at MercyOne Perinatal Center. “Opening the first NICU in the western suburbs is further demonstration of our commitment as a comprehensive community hospital.”

Look for more updates as we prepare for our new addition!
Structural Heart Team performs 1,000th TAVR

Dr. David McAllister, interventional cardiologist, and team recently performed MercyOne Iowa Heart Center’s 1,000th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). The staff presented the patient, Diana, with flowers and a special certificate signed by the structural heart team. Congratulations to our cardiovascular colleagues on this amazing milestone! Since doing the first TAVR in 2011, MercyOne Iowa Heart Center has continued to grow the structural heart program and provide an exceptional consumer experience to patients needing this procedure.

Dr. Deming receives Endowed Chair honor

Congratulations to our own Richard Deming, MD, radiation oncologist and medical director of the MercyOne Des Moines Cancer Center and cancer committee chair!

Dr. Deming was recently honored as Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities at the Creighton School of Medicine. Renowned for his compassionate care, Dr. Deming said the mission of the endowed chair aligns with his own life’s work and his belief that the humanities were essential to his formation as a physician.

“As I’ve had the opportunity to interact with thousands of cancer patients, I’ve learned the therapeutic value of just being present with them.”

- Dr. Deming

Coming soon: Pulse survey

As part of our work to Improve Daily, all colleagues will receive an email invitation for a short pulse survey. This feedback will be used to measure progress from our annual engagement survey. Individual responses and comments will be confidential. Please look for additional information coming soon.

Drake hosts PINK NIGHT

Drake University’s Women’s Basketball team hosts the Bradley Braves on Thursday, Feb. 20. The game will be the program’s annual “Pink Game” presented by MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center, with tipoff between the Bulldogs and Braves scheduled for 6 p.m. Breast cancer survivors will be honored during half-time, while the players wear special pink jerseys! MercyOne is an official partner of Drake Athletics. Join us for a night of fun with your family!