



Clarington residents facing a life-threatening illness or injury will benefit from improvements at Lakeridge Health's facility in Bowmanville.

Following months of planning and construction, Lakeridge Health Bowmanville's critical care unit is moving into new space on the hospital's first floor beginning Sept. 7.

"Critical care is where some of our most seriously ill patients come to receive treatment," says Kevin Empey, President and CEO, Lakeridge Health. "These patients require intense monitoring and specialized care. I'm proud that we can provide them with the space, equipment and high caliber professionals they need at this difficult point in their lives."

Patients and families will appreciate the new unit's larger space, private rooms and quiet family areas. The move also brings critical care next door to medicine/surgery and telemetry

(electronic monitoring of patient heart rate and rhythm). Telemetry patients and the critical care nurses who electronically monitor their status will be together in one area.

Lakeridge Health operates critical care units in Bowmanville and Oshawa, supporting patients in Durham Region and beyond. The units are staffed by a highly trained interprofessional team, including 24/7 coverage from nursing staff and respiratory therapists. Under an innovative new staffing model, physicians rotate between critical care and medicine/surgery at both sites. This has helped the hospital recruit physicians who may not otherwise have considered a smaller site like Bowmanville.

“The opening of the new critical care unit combined with the telemetry beds has created a fantastic opportunity to attract world-class internal medicine specialist physicians with critical care expertise to our Bowmanville site,” said Dr. Randy Wax, Medical Director, Critical Care and Resuscitation Services, Lakeridge Health. “We’re now fully staffed and we have year-round coverage.”

Lakeridge Health Bowmanville’s new critical care space includes five private rooms and one isolation room. It is adjacent to the medicine/surgery unit, which was also renovated as part of this project. The total project cost was \$1.5 million, of which \$1.3 million was donated through the Memorial Hospital Foundation – Bowmanville.

“Gifts for health touch lives. Because of the wonderful support of many generous individuals, organizations and businesses, we are able to offer good quality critical care right here in Clarington,” said Rose Kuipers, Board Chair, Memorial Hospital Foundation –Bowmanville.

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