

# PRESS RELEASE

## UBMC Expanding Emergency Department *Improving efficiency, privacy, safety and overall function*

**April 24, 2014:** Uintah Basin Healthcare has been striving to serve the needs of our region since we were established in 1944. As a 501-C3, not-for-profit corporation, we have progressively expanded to provide more specialized healthcare services locally so residents don't have to travel long distances to the Wasatch Front when specialized medical services are needed. At this time, we are excited to announce plans to expand our Emergency Department.

The current Emergency Department "E.D." configuration uses approximately 4,230 square feet of space. The renovation will include another 3550 square feet of existing adjacent space, and 2,400 square feet of new space. The new total area of the ED will be about 10,180 square feet.

While this project is being undertaken, we will be upgrading/replacing several old, inefficient HVAC components that when integrated into our central ground source system will result in significant savings for the E.D.'s energy use.

This expansion/remodel will dramatically improve our ability to grow and meet the future demands of our communities. Our new E.D. will allow us to meet current building codes and provide improved efficiency, privacy, safety/security, and overall function.

- Increased Efficiency
  - Additional Patient Rooms
    - The expansion will offer 8 exam rooms (5 exam rooms, 2 OB/GYN exam rooms, and 1 isolation room) and two trauma rooms.
      - Our current space houses 8 exam rooms now, and the expansion project will add two additional rooms plus a triage room... allowing us to assist more patients.
    - A triage room will lead to a more efficient work flow, with a nurse assessing the patient in triage and performing necessary preliminary work to decrease wait times.
    - The two trauma rooms will be strategically located near the EMS entrance, with their combined size increasing from 471 square feet to 782 square feet, allowing more equipment and personnel in the room during a major trauma.

- o Bedside Computers
  - A “PACS” computer terminal will be included to allow for remote viewing of radiographic images. Computer stations and printers will be located at strategic points to improve charting and communication.
- o Medication Room
  - An expanded medication room in the Emergency Department will allow us to stock needed medications, saving time.
- Increased Privacy
  - o Private Entrance & Waiting Area
    - The expansion/remodel will accommodate a new entrance directly into E.D. with a private waiting area.
  - o Private Rooms
    - Private rooms will allow better communication between patients and staff without compromising confidentiality.
    - Private rooms will also provide comfort and privacy to family members experiencing trauma or death.
  - o Multiple Bathrooms
    - Multiple bathrooms will offer convenience and privacy.
- Increased Safety
  - o Expanded Area
    - The overall design of the new E.D. incorporates such features as increased room size, locked entry points and better visibility of all patient care areas which will translate into a safer environment for patients and staff.
    - More space will allow us to move machines currently stored in hallways to proper storage areas, improving safety and meeting fire codes.

The project launch date will be April 28, 2014. During construction, the Emergency Department (E.D.) will be temporarily relocated to a portion of the Med-Surg/ICU area. Walk-In E.D. patients will continue to enter through the main entrance and proceed to the admitting desk. The main lobby waiting room will accommodate visitors of E.D. patients; after 4 pm, the same-day surgery waiting room will also be available for visitors of E.D. patients. Keep in mind that E.D. patients are allowed one visitor. Pediatric patients (age 0-18) will be allowed two visitors. Rules for visitation will have exceptions contingent upon the severity of each case. Staff will be available to redirect patients and visitors as needed.

The E.D. remodel/expansion will affect traffic flow to the Physical Therapy Department. As of May 12<sup>th</sup>, the temporary entrance for Physical Therapy will be on the exterior Southwest side of the hospital, facing the Family History Center.

We apologize for any inconvenience during construction. We will do our best to provide every patient with a healing experience. We are proud to be part of this wonderful community, and we appreciate your support as we continue to grow and provide health services you can count on.

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