

To Capital Health family physicians

September 17, 2014

Preparing for renovations at Dartmouth General Hospital

Hello,

The welcome renovations to Dartmouth General Hospital's third and fourth floors are scheduled to begin as early as March 2015. An updated facility with improved infection control will benefit the people we serve for decades to come.

In order to accommodate the renovations, Dartmouth General Hospital's Transitional Care Unit (TCU) will close in order to act as a swing unit while the other areas are under construction. The unit will close once all current patients have been discharged according to their care needs and plans. Discharges will begin this fall, and are expected to occur over a four month period.

When renovations are complete, Dartmouth General will provide the care that people need without a formally designated TCU. Most people want to live and age safely at home and more people are going home from hospital with Continuing Care services and other community supports. That means fewer people are waiting in our hospital beds for a long term care facility bed. In the last year, the number of people waiting in DGH for a long term care bed has decreased by half, and we expect that trend to continue.

Please share this information with your patients and their loved ones in the event that they have expectations around being admitted to the DGH TCU from the DGH Emergency Department. When discussing options for care, please consider all that Continuing Care programs and services can provide nowadays, as well as private care and other community-based resources. Anyone can call Continuing Care at 1-800-225-7225 to make a referral.

We look forward to construction starting this spring, and are confident that a renovated hospital will better meet the needs of the people we serve and employ.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Gibson
Chief, District Department of Family Practice
Capital Health

Dr. Todd Howlett
Chief of Staff
Dartmouth General Hospital