



David E. Kampe Tower Champions

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Welcome to the sixth in a series of stories dedicated to profiling the people working together to keep the wheels moving at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH). These stories showcase the important work being done each day and highlight the enhancements soon to come with the new David E. Kampe Tower, scheduled to open in late April 2019.

Patricia Breakey, Ambulatory Care

Patricia Breakey has witnessed a lot of change at Penticton Regional Hospital during her 13 years as a nursing manager in the ambulatory care department.

During that time, PRH has seen an increase in ambulatory care services, so much so that the department has out-grown its space in the current hospital.

“Ambulatory care has grown immensely but the space that we have at the hospital hasn’t kept up with the demand, so we have lots of little clinics stashed in different places,” says Breakey, noting that some of the clinics require patients to be admitted to one floor, travel to another for their procedure, and then return.

But once the new David E. Kampe Tower opens next April, things are going to improve for staff and patients.



A key component of Ambulatory care is day surgery, where patients have their surgical procedure done in the operating room and return home the same day.

It’s a busy department with a total of 10 nurses taking care of patients and working with other health care providers such as respiratory therapists, cardiac technicians, social workers, anesthesiologists and doctors.

Currently day surgery is not on the same floor as the operating rooms, so patients travel to another level to go to the operating room and then are transported back following their procedures.

Ambulatory Care champions at Penticton Regional Hospital: Patricia Breakey (middle), along with Gail O’Grady (left) and April Wetelainen.

Day surgery is in a converted inpatient unit, where patients share a room. However in the new tower, day surgery will feature private rooms with separate bathrooms that are wheelchair accessible, an ideal setting for privacy and infection control.

New operating rooms, the post-anaesthetic recovery room and the day surgery department will also be located together. Each patient will have their own private admission and recovery bay. There is also a dedicated patient family lounge next to the unit.

Arriving at ambulatory care will be easier as well with patients and their families able to enter the department from the new parkade, allowing for easy drop-off and pick-up of family members.

A new infusion clinic will also be located in a brand new area, where there is a private bay and a window view for each patient. The new endoscopy area will provide expanded space, dedicated private patient bays for recovery and state-of-the-art equipment in the new suites, where colonoscopies and gastroscopies are provided. Patients will no longer travel across the hallways after their procedures.

For Patricia Breakey and the many staff who come together in ambulatory care, the next series of changes in their department are going to be for the better. They are always putting patients first and they will continue to do that each and every day. When the new David E. Kampe Tower opens, the services in the tower are going to match the passion and level of care that is already inside PRH.

“The staff is extremely experienced and they provide exemplary care,” says Breakey. “I’m so proud of the team that works in ambulatory care. There will be some dedicated staff space for them in the new tower. It’s going to be a great environment for patients, families and staff. We are looking forward to being in this amazing new building – the David E. Kampe Tower.”

At six storeys high and 25,548 square metres (275,000 square feet), the David E. Kampe Tower will open for patients on April 29, 2019. It will increase capacity and functionality of ambulatory care services, include five new operating rooms, 84 new single patient rooms, a rooftop helipad and space to allow the UBC Faculty of Medicine program to expand. Once the tower is complete Phase 2 of the project will include renovations to significantly expand the emergency department and update the pharmacy, supplies and equipment stores in the existing hospital.