

For Immediate Release | September 27, 2011

VJH Polson Tower opens to patients

Sunday, September 25, 2011 will go down in history in Vernon. That was the day the new Vernon Jubilee Hospital Polson Tower received its first patients, completed its first operation, and delivered its first baby.

Workers and volunteers began arriving at 4:00 a.m. to prepare for the transfer of patients to the new tower. A patient move plan was put together, teams assembled in the cafeteria of the West Wing, and received last minute instructions about how the move would take place.

The doors closed on the old Emergency Department at 7:00 a.m. and immediately opened on the new Emergency Department in the Polson Tower.

At 8:30 a.m. the patient transfer began. Wayne Bentson was the first patient transferred, from the old Coronary Care Unit to the new one. From there a patient was moved approximately every three minutes. In total 29 patients moved over from the West Wing to the Polson Tower. They came from the ICU/CCU, Maternity/Child Unit and other inpatient beds. In total, the patient transfer took about two hours. There was lots more work to do, however, as equipment continued to be moved into the new tower, and staff began to familiarize themselves with the new spaces they will get to look after patients in.

The last baby born in the West Wing came into the world via C-section in the evening of Saturday, September 24, and the first baby arrived on early Sunday afternoon, September 25. It was an appropriate metaphor for the day, said Move Commander Assunta Shepherd, who described the year-long process of preparing for the move as akin to delivering a new baby for the community of Vernon!

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