

New facilities and services at Life's Gauteng hospitals

Life Suikerbosrand increases bed capacity

The construction of a new wing at Life Suikerbosrand Clinic in Heidelberg will increase the number of beds from 60 to 80. Six private rooms and seven semi-private rooms with en-suite bathroom facilities will be housed in the new wing, offering patients privacy in comfortable surroundings. Demand from the community for private hospital care has steadily increased over the past year, and the clinic has been operating at an average bed occupancy rate of 92%. The opening of the new R15.5 million wing in October this year, will alleviate this pressure.

Life Robinson expands ICU and surgical ward

A R3.4 million expansion and upgrading at Life Robinson Private Hospital in Randfontein has seen its ICU expand from six to nine beds, with the addition of two more ICU beds and one more high care bed. The surgical ward was also expanded by a further five beds, to accommodate 34 patients. Says Victor Taute, hospital manager: "The upgrades address the hospital's bed shortage and enable us to accommodate more patients locally instead of having to transfer them to other facilities."

Wellness unit opened at Life New Kensington

A 20 bed wellness unit opened at Life New Kensington Clinic in Johannesburg a few months ago. The facility is customised for the optimum treatment of users with mental health disorders.

The unit offers users access to the services of a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, social worker and nursing staff trained in mental healthcare.

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Says clinic manager, Jean Butler: "Our wellness programme is based on a bio-psychosocial

approach, and includes specialised individual and group activities. The programme has been developed to meet the needs of individuals who are suffering from overwhelming stress and mental health disorders, by means of short term in-hospital treatment."

The holistic approach means that physical, emotional, psychological and social aspects are addressed in their treatment plan, which is tailor made for each individual user, in order to provide the best support possible to facilitate their healing process.

"The primary objective is to mobilise resources to first restore and then maintain their mental well-being in order for them to reach an optimal level of functioning," says Jean.

LIFE SUPPORT UNITS EXPANDED



Following the establishment of the first life support unit (LSU) at Life Rosepark Hospital in Bloemfontein in 2001, this service was expanded to five more Life hospitals, where hospital employed advanced life support (ALS) trained paramedics in fully equipped response cars provide a free emergency medical response service to communities. LSUs are now based at Life Rosepark Hospital, Life Vincent Pallotti Hospital in Cape Town, Life Fourways Hospital in Sandton, Life The Glynnwood in Benoni, Life Flora Clinic in Roodepoort and Life Springs Parkland Clinic.

ALS paramedics from Life The Glynnwood, Louis Erasmus (left) and Carl de Montille are seen here at one of their response cars.

More in-hospital retail pharmacies opened

Launched in June 2008 at Life Fourways Hospital, the number of Life retail pharmacies has grown to 19, with the latest facility having opened in March this year at Life Beacon Bay Hospital.

Retail pharmacies are also based at the following Life hospitals: Life Bedford Gardens, Life Brenthurst, Life Carstenhof, Life Chatsmed Garden, Life Cosmos, Life Eugene Marais, Life Flora, Life Little Company of Mary, Life Robinson Private, Life Roseacres, Life St George's, Life The Crompton, Life The Glynnwood, Life Westville, Life Wilgeheuwel and Life Wilgers.

Located inside our hospitals, these pharmacies offer patients the convenience of filling their scripts at the hospital on their discharge, while the public in the vicinity of the hospitals also benefit from the pharmacies' extended hours of operation and wide range of products in East London.



EXPANSIONS AT LIFE'S EASTERN CAPE HOSPITALS

New high technology facilities to open at Life St Dominic's

Construction of a R38 million cardiac centre of excellence, which will include a cardiac catheterisation laboratory, dedicated cardiac theatre and intensive care unit, is underway at Life St Dominic's Hospital in East London. Consulting suites for the cardiac specialists will also be based at the hospital.

A new eight bed medical ICU opened at the hospital earlier this year, and a new 20 bed surgical ward is expected to open by the end of 2010.

Says regional hospital manager, for the Border/Kei region, Sean Hubbard: "Life St Dominic's Hospital remains the poly-trauma centre for the Border region. The establishment of the cardiac centre on the premises will complete our emergency service offering. Our new medical ICU, which includes four isolation cubicles, further contributes to the management of critical patients."

Upgrades to Life East London Private Hospital underway

Facilities at Life East London Private Hospital are currently being upgraded in phases, in order to accommodate patients needing acute medical care or step-down care. The hospital was granted a licence for 50 acute medical beds and 50 step-down beds.

Hospital manager, Isabelle Peters says: "The demand for medical beds has increased significantly, and our upgraded facilities will enable us to pro-

vide appropriate levels of care for medical patients."

"Upgrading is being done on a ward-by-ward basis, making it possible for us to open wards as soon as the work on them has been completed and thus accommodate more and more patients ahead of the final completion towards the end of the year," she says.

New medical ward at Life Queenstown Private Hospital

A new 20 bed medical ward, built at a cost of R6 million, opened at Life Queenstown Private Hospital, to satisfy the increasing demand by the community for private hospital care. This expansion brings the number of beds in the hospital to 70. Since the hospital was acquired by Life Healthcare in 2001, new maternity and paediatric wards have also been established.

Maternity and NICU upgrades at Life Mercantile Hospital

A R6.8 million project to upgrade the maternity unit and neonatal ICU, has been completed at Life Mercantile Hospital in Port Elizabeth. The labour section now comprises two-bed suites and two labour suites, and the postnatal ward now has a private suite and a semi-private suite in addition to general wards with either three, four or five beds. The upgrade demonstrates the hospital's commitment to delivering quality healthcare to the communities it serves.