

For Life!

MEADOWS

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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Vidalia, GA

The Future of Health Care Begins Today

When we initiated planning for the new Meadows Regional Medical Center three years ago, we shared a unified vision. We wanted to develop a medical center that embraced the latest medical advancements, enhanced both patient care and comfort, and could accommodate future healthcare developments.

Today, this remarkable facility is teeming with technology, has an eye to the future with next-generation IT infrastructure, is

built to accommodate another floor when the need arises and features major comfort and convenience enhancements.

This was all done to bring the benefits of today's latest medical breakthroughs to families throughout our region for generations to come. It's physical evidence of our commitment to be here for you, and for your family. For Life.

Alan Kent, President and CEO

Surgery Steps into a New Era

Patients having surgery at the new Meadows Regional Medical Center will benefit from some of the latest advances in surgical technology, safety and efficiency.

"Our six new surgical suites all feature the latest overhead-mounted systems with high-definition video, advanced monitoring technology and hands-free communications," says Director of Surgical Services Tim Nesmith. "These help make the surgical experience safer and faster for patients."

"A surgeon can consult another specialist in an adjacent suite by transmitting images directly to that specialist's screen."

– Tim Nesmith, Director of Surgical Services

By integrating with the digital records system, the new surgical technology facilitates communication between surgeons. This can speed consultations and limit interruptions during surgery.

"For example, if a patient is having a tumor removed, the surgeon has to send a sample to the laboratory to ensure that all of the cancer has been removed," explains VP of Operations Terry Thompson.

"Our new system enables both the surgeon and laboratory pathologist to see inside the microscope at the same time, via the high-definition screens in the surgical suite. They can discuss what they see and make a determination on the spot. There's no waiting for lab results, and surgery can quickly continue," he remarks.

"Also," adds Nesmith, "If a surgeon wants to consult another specialist who happens to be performing surgery in an adjacent suite, he can transmit high-definition images directly to that specialist's screen. That specialist can assess the situation and make a recommendation instantly, allowing the procedure to continue without delay."

"Additionally, two of the new surgical suites host specialized equipment for orthopedic procedures, which ensures that surgeons have all of the technology and equipment that they need when they need it," explains Nesmith.

To learn more about the surgical advancements at the new Meadows Regional Medical Center, contact 912.535.5600.



Meadows Regional now performs angioplasty, a potentially life-saving procedure for heart attack victims.



Board certified in cardiology and endovascular medicine, Peter Higgins, MD, FACC, RPVI, FSCAI, brings more than 16 years of cardiology expertise to our region.

The Heart of the New Hospital

Cardiovascular care in our area has taken major leaps forward in recent months, and the new Meadows Regional Medical Center propels it even further.

“The major advancement is that we now perform angioplasty – treating heart disease, not just diagnosing it,” explains Assistant VP/Director of Cardiovascular Services Travis Roose. “This can save heart attack victims valuable time – time that is damaging their heart.”

“We can also treat peripheral vascular disease, which affects blood flow to the brain, legs and kidneys,” adds Roose.

With the introduction of cardiologist Peter Higgins, MD, FACC, RPVI, FSCAI, Meadows Regional is the only area hospital with the most up-to-date approach to cardiac catheterizations: radial angiography.

This approach is usually more comfortable for patients, has a shorter hospital stay and fewer complications. After a traditional catheterization, patients must lie flat and still for up to four hours. If the radial approach is used, patients can get up and move about after two hours.

Radial angiography is the newest and most advanced method for performing diagnostic and interventional cardiac catheterizations.

Advanced Cardiovascular Lab

The cardiovascular lab’s ceiling-mounted Siemens® Artis system puts high-definition monitors, catheter systems and digital medical records at eye level so they’re more accessible for cardiologists.

The Artis system links to the hospital’s picture archiving and communication system (PACS). That integration means if a cardiologist discovers a patient needs surgery while performing a diagnostic heart catheter procedure, through PACS, he can send images from the procedure room to the surgeon. That allows the surgeon to develop a treatment plan before the patient even arrives.

Ultra-modern Ultrasound

The department’s state-of-the-art ultrasound provides images from inside a blocked vessel. Roose explains, “The ultrasound cable is actually passed through the inside of a blockage to provide a more precise measurement for optimal treatment.”

The system also has advanced software that digitally removes bones, muscles and other tissue, to give physicians a more precise view of the circulatory system.

Convenience and Comfort

A coronary recovery unit was also added so patients can rest after their procedure. “We need to monitor patients after a diagnostic angiography to make sure they don’t experience any adverse effects. Here, they can relax in privacy,” says Roose.

To learn more about how Meadows Regional is advancing cardiovascular care for our area, contact 912.535.5572.

EXPANDING EMERGENCY MEDICINE

In a medical emergency, time is critical. That's why the new emergency department makes care faster and more efficient.

"Our goal is to get patients out of the waiting room and into treatment as quickly as possible," explains Director of the Emergency Department Candi Rivers, RN. "Once in treatment, additional efficiencies help nurses and physicians deliver care quickly."

Large, Advanced Emergency Rooms

The emergency department at the new Meadows Regional is nearly 70 percent larger with 22 patient treatment areas.

"These rooms have extra space for staff and equipment, as well as ceiling-mounted monitors and technology that provide everything within easy reach," says Rivers.

There are even specialized rooms for cardiac, respiratory and pediatric emergencies as well as orthopedic treatments. Additionally, two isolation rooms are ready around the clock.

"If a patient comes in with chest pain, they immediately go to the specialized cardiac treatment area," explains Rivers. That means no stopping at registration or waiting for a triage nurse. The nurse performs triage and registration from the bedside.

A More Efficient Floor Plan

Even the floor plan creates time-saving efficiencies. Built around a central nursing station, nurses can keep a close watch and respond quickly.

According to Rivers, the department's location next to radiology also speeds diagnoses and treatment. "By placing our departments side-by-side, we can speed patients into radiology for

"If a patient comes in with chest pain, they immediately go to the specialized cardiac treatment area."

– Candi Rivers, RN, Director of the Emergency Department

CT scans, MRIs or other diagnostic imaging procedures."

Clinical Advancements

The emergency department is home to new state-of-the-art patient monitoring systems, digital record keeping and smart IV pumps that regulate fluid and medication intake. The new REACH teleneurology system allows off-site neurologists to consult with bedside physicians in real time.

To learn more about the emergency department at the new Meadows Regional Medical Center, contact 912.535.5418.

2270%
larger
treatment areas



The new emergency department's efficient layout is beside the radiology department to expedite patient care.

Swaddling New Mothers and their Babies in Comfort



The Women's Pavilion at Meadows Regional Medical Center is a delight for expecting moms' senses.

"We've spared nothing in creating a perfect place for new lives to begin," says Meadows Regional's Director of Women's Services Vickie Gaultney. "Our new Women's Pavilion provides some of today's latest advancements in medical care – swaddled in a beautiful, secure family environment."

The first difference is a dedicated entrance and exit that serves only Women's Pavilion patients. Mothers and newborns come and go without entering or passing through other areas of the hospital.

Comfort is Key

Spacious suites let family and guests enjoy their own space while giving nurses and staff fast access to delivering mothers. "We give families an environment that feels like home while they are here," Gaultney says.

The extra space also allows labor, delivery and recovery to take place in one room. Once born, Meadows Regional babies are weighed and given their first bath in the suite so parents don't miss those special firsts.



The new Women's Pavilion provides the latest technology in a beautiful, hotel-like environment.

The oversized suites have private closets with locking drawers and private bathrooms with large showers. New parents will also notice crown molding, flat-panel televisions, full-size sleeper sofas and beds to enhance mothers' comfort. Wireless Internet allows easy online sharing for parents and friends.

A Nursery Like Never Before

The expanded nursery has state-of-the-art clinical advancements such as new warmers with scales and new monitors to track vital signs. Equipped to hold 14 babies, the new nursery also has designated areas for babies with special needs.

A procedure area allows for in-nursery medical procedures and a nesting area lets moms enjoy private time with babies unable to leave the nursery. There is even an isolation room for

babies born outside the hospital, or with an infection, to rest in a healthy environment until they can join the newborns in the main nursery.

"We even gave special thought to the nursery viewing area, where a small step allows children to see their new sibling," says Gaultney.



To learn more about the Women's Pavilion at the new Meadows Regional Medical Center, contact 912.535.5023.

"We've spared nothing in creating a perfect place for new lives to begin."

– Vickie Gaultney, Director of Women's Services



Meadows Regional is the only Georgia hospital with two 160-slice CT scanners.

Revolutionary Radiology

The Toshiba® Titan MRI has an open-bore design and the largest patient area available to provide optimum patient comfort.

The new Meadows Regional Medical Center is equipped with amazing technology and some of the greatest is found in radiology.

160-slice CT

Meadows Regional is the only hospital in Georgia with two Toshiba® 160-slice CT scanners. Their detailed 3D images help diagnose heart and vascular disease with unprecedented clarity.

They also help patients with traumatic injuries or other complex conditions. "It is rare for a facility to have one of these scanners," says Director of Radiology John Harrell. "The new Meadows Regional has two."

MRI

Meadows Regional's Toshiba Titan MRI is the only one of its kind in the region. With high-definition 3D images, the advanced MRI makes joint replacement surgery more precise and detects breast cancer earlier. With the industry's

largest patient area and an open-bore design for greater patient comfort, it's much quieter than past MRIs. "The traditional loud banging has been reduced to a quiet thump," explains Harrell.

Physicians can also use the MRI to diagnose vascular disease in the leg. "This lets us acquire high-quality exams without use of an IV contrast (dye) injection. Some procedures will still require use of IV contrast, but for patients with low kidney function, this is quite an improvement," Harrell says.

3D and 4D Ultrasound

The advanced GE® Logic 9 ultrasound has both 3D and 4D images so parents can see their developing child's face as early as 32 weeks.

Digital Imaging Network

All technology is linked by a secure digital network that allows

transmission across the hospital in an instant. "If a surgeon needs an image, it can be in front of him almost immediately," explains Harrell. "It also can be securely accessed by physicians from their offices or other sites."

Physicians can now send images to outside specialists for consultations or compare laparoscopic surgical images with diagnostic images right in the surgical suite.

Comfort and Convenience

The new medical center's design makes outpatient procedures more convenient. Patients coming for an MRI or CT scan can quickly enter the radiology department. "The patient's images can be digitally archived and transmitted to the patient's physician so there's no need to transport film," says Harrell.

To learn more about the new Meadows Regional Medical Center's advanced radiology department, contact 912.535.5583.

State-of-the-Art, in Georgia

Taking health care into new territory, the new Meadows Regional Medical Center is a wonder of design and function.

Many of these advances are represented by the expansive level of advanced technology that permeates every room in the hospital. "The technology inside our new medical center is broad and encompassing," says Terry Thompson, VP of Operations at Meadows Regional. "We added a tremendous amount of technological infrastructure throughout the medical center."

Advanced Patient Rooms

A new nurse-call system installed in every patient room enables patients to directly call their nurse. Patients also can make specific requests right from their bedside remote.

"If, for example, a patient needs water, he or she can press a button on their remote. This will call their nurse on his or her receiver, similar to a cell phone. The nurse then can respond immediately to the request," explains Thompson.

Every room has its own documentation station so nurses can report on patient progress directly from the bedside. This is tied to an electronic medical records system that allows physicians and other caregivers constant access to the latest patient information.

A Healing Environment

Open spaces, gardens and large windows all embody a vibrancy and celebration of life. Even the hallways have been carefully developed.

"Rather than a traditional hospital hallway, our new hallways feature molding, wall sconces and color palettes that feel more like a hotel than a hospital," says Thompson. "These are all intended to make patients feel more comfortable while they are healing."

Hospital-wide Integration

Lab samples and medications move via an enclosed tube system, delivering results and relief faster than before.

Centralized computer systems allow individual patients to control the temperature in their rooms. All computer systems are linked through a secure digital network. Next-generation cabling is ready to accommodate future technological advancements.

Advanced Construction

The construction of the facility itself helps make it a safer, more efficient environment for health care.



"We added a tremendous amount of technological infrastructure throughout the medical center."

– Terry Thompson, VP of Operations

The building is supported by 350 Geopiers® to provide stability in the event of an earthquake. (Vidalia experienced light tremors both in the 1950s and 1970s.) This foundation also enables Meadows Regional to add a third floor to grow with future patient demand.

The building also features the latest in fire controls and fire-resistant materials to help keep patients safe and secure.

To learn more about the new Meadows Regional Medical Center, contact 912.535.5892.



Hospital-wide electronic medical records provide physicians and caregivers access to the most current patient data.

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For Life! is published as a community service by Meadows Regional Medical Center. Meadows Regional Medical Center is located at One Meadows Parkway in Vidalia, GA, online at www.meadowsregional.com and available by phone at 912.535.5555.

Contact Elizabeth Harvill, Director of Marketing and Community Relations at Meadows Regional Medical Center, at 912.535.5892.

If you have specific concerns about your health, please contact your doctor.

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Meadows Healthcare Foundation Helps Advance Care

From promoting awareness of healthcare issues to developing financial resources, the Meadows Healthcare Foundation helps secure the future health of our community.

The Foundation recently helped raise funds for the new hospital with a Blue Tie Gala, held December 31 at the new Meadows Regional Medical Center.



The gala, featuring a swing band, catered heavy hors d'oeuvres and medical center tours, was an evening to remember. A big thank you to all of our sponsors: Presenting Sponsors - McLendon Enterprises and Brasfield & Gorrie /AHFD/ ESa; Gold Sponsor - Wagener; Silver Sponsors - AirVac, Art



Left to Right: Gray Meredith and Dr. Susanna Meredith, Dr. Pamela Lindor and Serophin Lindor



The Meadows Regional staff greets patients and guests within a healing, spacious environment.

Plumbing, and VNS; Bronze Sponsors - Accessories Unlimited, Advantage Fire, Georgia Firestop, Adams Construction Services Inc., and Macon Power.

In 2011, the Foundation will continue to raise money to support the new hospital while also raising funds to help complete and support the new cancer center. Additionally, the Foundation will host more upcoming community events as well as continue its brick campaign and offer naming opportunities in the new hospital and cancer center.

If you are interested in making a gift or have questions about the Foundation, please contact Ansley B. Threlkeld at 912.277.2139 or donate online at www.meadowsregional.com.