



Calgary gets first look at i-Suites™

Calgary will soon be home to six state-of-the-art surgical suites known as i-Suites™. This is a \$3.6 million investment that will positively impact the care of surgical patients in southern Alberta and provide surgeons and the operating room teams with an optimum working environment. Construction at the three adult acute care sites (Rockyview, Foothills and Peter Lougheed) begins in July.

i-Suites are highly efficient and responsive surgical suites that utilize voice command technology, and optimize ergonomics by taking surgical equipment off the floor. These suites also provide less invasive laparoscopic techniques that minimize patient discomfort and speed up recovery times.

Calgary will also be the first city in North America to link i-Suites. This means that a surgeon at Foothills Medical Centre will be able to view and participate in a surgical procedure at the Rockyview General Hospital and vice versa.

Major benefits of i-Suites include:

- Efficiencies realized through reductions in O.R. turnover times and improved allocation of personnel;
- Reduced recovery times for surgical patients because of laparoscopic technology;
- Enhanced safety and efficiency through the use of 'boomed' equipment that eliminates carts, cords and cables;
- Greater surgical precision through improved ergonomics and better visualization for the surgeon;
- Better patient care through the integration of MRI, CT and ultrasound into the surgical field, providing the surgeon with invaluable information;
- Educational opportunities made possible through connection to the OR through teleconferencing;
- Enhanced recruitment and retention of highly skilled surgeons and staff.

The Calgary Health Trust is raising \$3.6 million for i-Suites through the efforts of the Rockyview Development Council and the Pengrowth Rockyview Invitational Golf Tournament.

The Rockyview Invitational Golf Tournament, which takes place June 21st, is the most successful one day charitable golf tournament in Canada. Since 1991, more than \$3 million has been raised to support excellence at the Rockyview Hospital. In 2002 and 2003, the tournament raised over \$1 million in support of i-Suites. The proceeds from the 2004 and 2005 tournaments have been pledged to i-Suites as well.

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