

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### ***ECHN CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART CRITICAL CARE SUITES AT MANCHESTER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL***

Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) celebrated the completion of its year-long project to build new, state-of-the-art Critical Care Suites at Manchester Memorial Hospital (MMH) with an official ribbon cutting on April 6.

The new suites are approximately 17,500 square feet and will allow for enhanced critical care, leading edge technology and better service to patients and families. There will be twelve, private critical care rooms and ten step-down unit beds, all of which can be transformed to critical care rooms if necessary. The adjacent step-down unit is designed to provide care for patients who need less monitoring than those in the critical care rooms, but still require more monitoring than those on medical or surgical units.

Enhanced isolation capability was a major focus of this project as well. Three isolation suites were constructed and all patient 22 rooms are private. These private accommodations will offer post-operative patients a clean environment promoting a decrease in the spread of hospital-acquired infections and better wound healing. The unit also has updated technology and improved conditions for all staff that includes overhead articulating arms or booms that house a new patient monitoring system and other critical technology that is often needed to care for patients with critical health conditions. This new monitoring system will allow for improved access to patient information right at the bedside. Additional design features include ergonomically correct workspaces in each room for staff, satellite nursing stations or pods outside of the critical care rooms so all patients can be seen at all times, and enhanced workspaces to access electronic medical records and radiographic images.

ECHN is a not-for-profit health care system serving 19 towns in eastern Connecticut, through its network of affiliates that include Manchester Memorial Hospital, Rockville General Hospital, Woodlake at Tolland (a 100-bed nursing home and short-term rehabilitation facility), the ECHN Medical Building at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor, which houses the Women's Center for Wellness, and ECHN Health Services Inc. (a series of medical practices owned and operated by ECHN). It is in partnership with Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut Inc., Connecticut Occupational Medicine Partners Inc., Ambulance Service of Manchester, Aetna Ambulance, Metro Wheelchair, and Saint Francis Care (which partners with ECHN on the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory of the Hoffman Heart Institute of Connecticut at Rockville General Hospital), Community CancerCare Inc. (which provides radiation therapy services at The John A. DeQuattro Community Cancer Center in Manchester). ECHN is also affiliated with Connecticut Children's Medical Center.



*The official ribbon cutting: Deb Parker, SVP, ECHN Patient Care Services, David Wasserstein, MD, Medical Director of Critical Care and Special Care, Marlene Barnett, RN on the ICU/Special Care Unit at Manchester Memorial Hospital, Rosemarie Papa, Chairperson, ECHN Board of Trustees and Peter Karl, President & CEO*