Southcoast Breaks Ground on Heart and Vascular Center at Charlton

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Southcoast® Health recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Harold and Virginia Lash Heart and Vascular Center at Charlton Memorial Hospital. The new venue will house Southcoast Health’s expanding Cardiovascular Services, including a state-of-the-art hybrid operating room.

“Over the years, Southcoast Health has transformed itself from a system of community hospitals serving the basic needs of its patients to a front-line provider of some of the most innovative medicine available,” said Keith Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health.

The hybrid OR is a cardiovascular surgical theatre equipped with advanced medical imaging devices to enable minimally-invasive surgery while bringing together doctors of different disciplines in the same operating room. The hybrid OR will support Southcoast Health’s structural heart procedures, vascular surgery and endovascular medicine.

This operating room of the future allows Southcoast Health to combine in one space several existing cardiovascular interventions currently performed as individual operations. Combining procedures is a less invasive technique than would be involved with separate surgeries, and studies suggest that less surgical staging and anesthesia reduces recovery time and inpatient lengths of stay.

“With this hybrid OR, we’ll be able to offer minimally invasive therapies rather than open surgical procedures, and our ability to offer unique therapies to treat individual patient problems will be expanded with this new venue,” said Adam Saltzman, MD, Medical Director of the Structural Heart Program.

Studies also suggest that the hybrid OR will increase patient satisfaction and reduce overall costs. This cost reduction will be achieved by reducing length of stay, ICU usage and surgical infections. The dual achievements of reduced inpatient stays and fewer surgeries increases patient satisfaction.

This new operating room will be used exclusively for inpatients and is designed for a range of cardiovascular procedure applications, including Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) technology. TAVR is a highly-specialized valve replacement surgery that eliminates the need for open-heart surgery and gives new hope and relief from pain to high-risk patients with heart valve disease. Due to the complexity of these inpatient cases, Southcoast anticipates 40 to 50 TAVR and 124 open complex vascular surgical cases in 2015.

The Harold and Virginia Lash Heart and Vascular Center will cost approximately $9.5 million to complete. The construction was made possible in large part by a donation from the Harold and Virginia Lash Trust and other major commitments from the Auxiliary of Charlton Memorial Hospital and the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust.

CMM Picks RI for $20M Healthcare Payment/Service Delivery ‘Model Test’ Award

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island has been selected for a $20 million Model Test Award under the second round of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Innovation Models initiative. The grant period begins on February 1, 2015, and continues over a 48-month project period.

The State Innovation Model initiative provides financial and technical support to states to design or test innovative, multi-payer health care payment and service delivery models that will improve health system performance, increase quality of care, and decrease costs for Medicare, Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program beneficiaries. Rhode Island is one of 11 states to receive a test grant this round – 21 states received a design grant.

“This is an incredible opportunity for strategic federal investments that will ensure Rhode Islanders receive the highest quality care with better health outcomes in the years to come. I look forward to working in a unique public-private partnership with the Healthy Rhode Island steering committee to make this opportunity a reality,” said Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts.