



AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2013

CONTACT: Erica Smith, Public Relations

(217) 544-6464 ext. 44307

ST. JOHN'S OPENS NEW 8TH FLOOR
Renovated floor features private rooms, enhanced safety features

SPRINGFIELD – St. John's Hospital opened the new 8th floor to patients on Tuesday, July 2. The floor is the second to open as a part of a patient tower project to renovate four floors of the current hospital. This \$41 million construction project will create all private rooms and specific nursing units on floors six through nine in the patient tower.

The 44-bed floor includes a 20 bed Neurology unit for general neurology or intermediate care neurology patients. Two beds are dedicated as the Epilepsy monitoring unit, providing 24 hour video EEG capability. The other 24 beds providing care to Trauma patients as well as general and intermediate medical level of care patients.

To enhance patient safety, additional features have been added to the rooms including hand rails to the bathroom, bathroom lights that come on automatically, wider doors for easy access to the room and bathroom, and walk-in showers.

"Health care delivery is changing, and we want to be proactive in how we address patient needs," said Dave Olejniczak, Chief Operating Officer at St. John's. "Our renovated patient floors are designed to provide the best possible health care experience for patients and families, as well as clinical staff and physicians."

In addition to clinical, safety and comfort features for patients, the new patient rooms consider the needs of families and visitors. There is a pull-out bed so a family member can stay with patients overnight, and a family area with television is included in each room.

The patient tower project is complemented by St. John's \$121 million Surgery Modernization construction project, which will replace St. John's existing surgery department. The new surgery space and patient tower renovation is scheduled to open in 2014.

ABOUT HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and in Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

#####