



NEWS

ANTELOPE VALLEY'S
HEALTHCARE
NEWS RESOURCE

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ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL EXPANSION NEW PATIENT DISCHARGE LOUNGE

(LANCASTER, CA – July 16, 2008) — Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) announces the opening of their new discharge lounge. The discharge lounge will offer a safe, comfortable and convenient place for patients who have been already discharged from the hospital to wait for their transportation home. This will also allow for rooms to be cleaned and available for patients who are waiting to be admitted from the Emergency Department.

“With over 100,000 patients treated every year in our emergency department, we needed to create a solution to ensure that patients are not waiting any longer than they have to for a patient room,” explained Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. “We believe that this new discharge unit will help us improve the wait time for rooms and improve overall patient care at AVH.”

The new discharge unit will be on the third floor and feature two large flat-screen TVs, DVD players, educational and reading materials, as well as light refreshments. Fully-reclining, luxury seating will be provided for the discharged patients so that they can relax and be comfortable while they wait for their transportation.

Annamarie Marotta, RN, MSN, AVH Director of Nursing Administration, explained that Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) will staff the discharge lounge seven days a

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week. “The discharge lounge will provide the opportunity for the LVNs to educate the patients on their conditions, fax any prescriptions to the pharmacy for pickup later and review their discharge orders with the patients,” said Marotta. “It’s really an added-value for the patients to have this extra time with a trained nurse to answer any questions or concerns.”

Another part of the hospital expansion includes making changes to the Emergency Department to accommodate the increased number of patients. Elizabeth Reid, RN, AVH Director of Emergency Department explained that the construction will help nurses and doctors see patients more efficiently.

“The Emergency Department works at such a frantic pace, and in most cases, minutes can be critical for a patient’s condition,” said Reid. “By creating an environment that makes it easier for the doctors and nurses to care for our patients, it will improve the overall quality of patient care.”

Some improvements that are currently in progress include expanding the triage area, expanding the waiting room to include more seats as well as a children’s area, upgrading the nurses’ station and moving the urgent care area to inside the hospital instead of in a separate building.

Reid explained, “By adding more beds to the triage area, patients will be seen by a healthcare provider more promptly. To save time, tests can be ordered during the triage process and then by the time the patients are brought into the ER area, the physician will have all of the pertinent information for diagnosis. This will also help move patients who are less serious to an urgent care area so that they can be treated and released to go home.”

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“We are moving forward with all of these construction projects so we can improve the quality of care for our patients and take care of our community,” commented Mirzabegian. “Our community continues to grow, and unless we grow and expand our services, there will not be enough hospital beds or healthcare providers to take care of our community. I will not allow that to happen at AV Hospital. We are the community’s hospital that has taken care of the Antelope Valley residents for over 50 years. We’re just looking forward to taking care of them for another 50!”

(Photos attached)



Patient's View of the new flat screen TV



AV Hospital Discharge Lounge

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call (661) 949-5000.

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