

NEW PEDIATRIC UNIT RAISES SHANDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BED COUNT BY 12 NEW BEDS TO 167 TOTAL

Imagine being a kid with cancer. If you need a bone-marrow transplant, you are confined to your hospital room for about 30 days. Then you return to the hospital every day for weeks to receive more treatments. Or if you have a heart transplant, your body is more susceptible to germs and you need a proper environment in which to recover. At Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida, construction is underway for a new home that will welcome these patients and others to a new colorful and kid-friendly space.

A new Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Immunocompromised Unit opened in July to combine many services and treatments that will optimize the experience of our pediatric patients. This patient group will include all cancer and bone-marrow-transplant patients, children with immunological problems, sickle cell disease and solid-organ transplants. In April, the outpatient clinic – including



Shands Facilities construction workers are busy completing the patient rooms for the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Immunocompromised Unit.



This activity room will be located in the inpatient unit. It will have three 42" flat-screen TVs and numerous game systems.

the infusion center – relocated to this floor as well.

"Our division is extremely excited to be moving into the new combined inpatient and outpatient immunocompromised unit," said William B. Slayton, MD, UF College of Medicine pediatric hematologist/oncologist. "This unit will enhance patient care in a number of ways. The outpatient unit will allow our team to see our patients in a clinic that is immediately adjacent to the inpatient unit. This will make it easier to admit patients who arrive to the clinic with serious infections or other problems."

All rooms in this unit will be equipped with private rest rooms and air-flow devices that minimize infections. Each room will have a 32" flat-screen TV with two game systems to help with physical activity. A dedicated high-tech activity room will be in the inpatient unit. Equipped with three 42" flat-screen TVs and every game system imaginable, this new activity room will provide an escape for kids.

"I hope this activity room is able to provide patients and families with a brighter day," said Tim Tebow, former UF

Project funding

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A special thank you goes to:

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- NASCAR Foundation
- V Foundation
- First and 15
- Celebrity Waiter Night
- Fishing for Kids
- Climb for Cancer Foundation
- Pediatric T-shirt sales
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quarterback. Tebow is cofounder of the First and 15 organization, the group who funded the activity room.

"The clinic has a larger infusion room that will accommodate more children and an additional room to perform other complicated infusions," Slayton said. "The nurses will receive special training to serve this population."

Each treatment area has a 15" flat-screen TV and a Playstation3 game.