

UW Montlake Tower Expansion



Window placement at the Montlake Tower offers natural lighting and scenic views.

In October 2012 UW Medical Center inaugurated the Montlake Tower, a gleaming new wing on its south side. The \$215 million project immediately increased patient capacity in three important areas and boasts leading-edge technology whose use was just approved in June 2012 by the FDA.

Construction of the new eight-story building started in April 2009. This phase of the project includes increased capacity for oncology and neonatal intensive care unit patients, as well as more space for leading-edge digital imaging technology. Two floors will house administration and three floors are shelled for future expansion.

Here are some features of the new building:

isolation rooms for greater infection control; and a comfortable family lounge with household amenities, including bath and shower, comfortable sitting spaces, washer/dryer and kitchenette. The staff conference room has interactive white boards and videoconferencing capability to promote medical education among staff and distance learners.

Oncology Services expansion on the eighth floor includes 30 single rooms for patients with blood diseases; two

isolation rooms for greater infection control; and a comfortable family lounge with household amenities, including bath and shower, comfortable sitting spaces, washer/dryer and kitchenette. The staff conference room has interactive white boards and videoconferencing capability to promote medical education among staff and distance learners.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit expansion on the fourth floor can accommodate 47 infants in 39 single rooms and four rooms for twins, making it one of the largest neonatal ICUs in the Pacific Northwest. The new neonatal ICU includes an infant operating room, a pediatric pharmacy, a family lounge with household amenities, and an advanced security system. The floor also provides “front porch” benches along the corridor to foster conversation and community among family members. A centrally located rounds area offers a shared work space for multidisciplinary team.

Radiology expansion on the second floor includes leading-edge digital imaging technology for diagnosing and treating brain tumors and neurovascular and vascular diseases. The new space includes four CT scanners, two magnetic resonance scanners and four angiography suites. The interventional radiology suite is custom-designed by Philips so that, if necessary, patients can have all three types of treatment in one session.

The tower is among the first facilities to employ recommendations of an energy-reduction study published in 2010 by the UW’s Integrated Design Lab and a consortium of architects, engineers and builders. The structure’s energy efficiency surpasses Seattle’s guidelines by 30 percent, says Duncan Griffin, a senior architect at NBBJ, the tower’s design firm. Reduced power requirements brought by LED lighting, solar shading and other advantages are projected to save upward of \$276,000 annually.



A CT imaging machine in the radiology facility at the Montlake Tower is in a room with a ceiling image of sky and trees.

Story sources UWMC Online News and UW Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability
Photos by Clare McClean/UWMC