

Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes

Frequently Asked Questions

1601 60th Street
West Des Moines, Iowa
www.mercydesmoines.org

Projected Opening Date:
Late 2009

Services Available:
Medical/surgical inpatient
beds, birthing services, a
24/7 Level IV Emergency
Department and diagnostic
and ancillary services.

Why did Mercy decide to build a replacement hospital for Mercy Capitol in West Des Moines?

In its effort to provide the best patient care available, Mercy recognizes that it must have modern, efficient, high quality facilities. After careful consideration, we determined that it actually will be more cost-effective to build a new facility like Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes than it would have been to renovate and expand Mercy Capitol. This is because it would have been very difficult and expensive to incorporate the types of modern technology and evidence-based design that we are building into Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes while continuing to provide care to patients. In addition, regardless of how much money was spent on renovating Mercy Capitol, it would not fix the problems of inadequate floor-to-ceiling heights or patient room windows that look out onto exterior building walls.

The decision to relocate to West Des Moines was based on several factors. Knowing that we couldn't build on Mercy Capitol's current site and that the replacement hospital would have to be built somewhere else, we decided it was in our community's best interest to build it further away from our tertiary campus in downtown Des Moines. West Des Moines was a logical choice because it will allow for better utilization of Mercy Capitol's licensed beds in a rapidly growing segment of the community, where the population demand is greatest and physician offices are located.

When did Mercy break ground on Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes, and when will it be open to patients?

Mercy held a blessing and groundbreaking ceremony on July 19, 2007. If construction stays on schedule, the hospital will be opened to patients in late 2009.

What services does Mercy Capitol currently provide that Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes will offer?

Because it is a replacement facility for Mercy Capitol, Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes will provide the same services. It will be a full-service community hospital designed to offer the same medical/surgical, birthing, cardiovascular, diagnostic and ancillary services that Mercy Capitol currently provides. In addition, Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes will have a Level IV Emergency Department and will not have a trauma center, meaning that patients with serious injuries will continue to be cared for at Mercy's Level II Emergency Department downtown.

What will happen to Polk County residents when Mercy Capitol is replaced?

Just as Mercy Capitol does today, Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes will serve a mix of central Iowans, the majority of whom are expected to be Polk County residents. In addition, Mercy's Central Campus is located just 18 blocks away from the current site of Mercy Capitol, and our new East Tower and ongoing plans to extensively renovate other areas on campus demonstrate our commitment to provide improved, state-of-the-art facilities for all Des Moines metro residents.



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Every Day in Every Way.™