

Victoria Hospitals Foundation Launches Fall Campaign

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For Immediate Release

Victoria, BC – The Victoria Hospitals Foundation today launched its Fall Campaign with a goal to raise \$595,000 towards the purchase of 94 specialized vital signs monitors for the new Patient Care Centre.

This leading-edge equipment for the Heart Health and General Surgery units displays a patient's blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, blood oxygen saturation, temperature and electrocardiogram, a wave-form graphic of a patient's heart activity.

Portable monitors used to be *shared* between rooms as they became available, with a central monitor located at the nursing care hub. Because monitors are now in *every* patient room of these two units, caregivers can track a patient's vital signs 24/7.

"These monitors bring state-of-the-art technology right to the patient's bedside and are an excellent addition to quality care, almost another member of our medical team," explains Dr. Daniel Wong, Medical Director of Heart Health, VIHA.

"I can speak with my patients while I am viewing their vital signs, adjust temporary pacemaker settings while watching their heart rate and blood pressure, or administer medication then see the response to treatment. No running back and forth to the nursing care hub to see the vital sign displays when a monitor isn't available!"

As a recent patient in the Heart Health unit following a heart attack and cardiac surgery, Bob Modrow agrees that the monitors are important.

"When you're in this kind of situation, when you're helpless and can't speak, you must trust the people and the technology taking care of you. This monitor was my voice when I couldn't tell anyone what was going on in my body," says Bob. "If we want high-quality patient-centered care, then our doctors and nurses need to have the best tools available to do their jobs - people's lives depend on it."

The equipment takes full advantage of the wireless network operating throughout the Patient Care Centre with monitors connected to the hands-free communication devices worn by caregivers. This means caregivers can attend to one patient and remotely monitor another.

"The new Patient Care Centre has some of the best medical technology in Canada," says Rod Dewar, Victoria Hospitals Foundation Board Chair. "These monitors can store a patient's vital sign data for a 48-hour period, allowing doctors to track patterns or see early warning signals before a larger health condition occurs. We're excited to be able to support our medical teams by raising funds for this important equipment."

Donations to the Foundation's Fall Campaign can be made by mailing a donation to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, calling 250-519-1750, or visiting www.victoriahf.ca. Funds will also be raised at the Foundation's annual *Visions* gala on November 19 at The Fairmont Empress.

The Foundation is raising an additional \$25 million for state-of-the-art equipment and technology for the new Patient Care Centre through the *Building Care Together* capital campaign.

Vital signs monitors:

- This equipment will track the vital signs of patients who have a heart condition, have suffered a heart attack, or have had lung or abdominal surgery.
- In the new Patient Care Centre every patient room in the Heart Health and General Surgery programs has vital signs monitors allowing nurses and doctors to track life-saving data on a large colour touch screen.
- Doctors can adjust temporary pacemaker settings while viewing a patient's heart rate and blood pressure or administer medication while watching the response to treatment.
- With monitors connected to a hands-free communications device worn by caregivers, changes in a patient's condition can be tracked at a distance. The devices alert nurses with an alarm specific to the patient's problem if vital signs change. This allows the caregiver to swiftly respond with the correct assistance.
- Patients can also wear a remote device allowing him/her to walk the hallways or attend appointments in the hospital and still have vital signs continuously tracked.
- Each monitor can store the patient's vital signs data for 48 hours, enabling caregivers to track vital sign patterns or see early warning signals before a larger health condition occurs. The data can be transferred to the electronic patient record and shared between health care providers while that patient is in the hospital.
- The vital signs monitors provide 24/7 care, giving families the comfort of knowing their loved-one is being watched by a piece of high-technology that will alert medical teams should his/her condition change.

The Heart Health and General Surgery units at Royal Jubilee:

- The Heart Health unit cares for patients who have undergone open-heart surgery, or who are receiving medical treatment for cardiac conditions, such as a heart attack.
- The General Surgery unit cares for urology, neurosurgery, and ophthalmology patients, as well as those who may have undergone cardiac, vascular, orthopedic, plastic, or trauma surgeries.

Bob Modrow's story:

- In April 2011, 69-year-old retired professor, Bob Modrow, had a heart attack in the emergency department at Royal Jubilee Hospital. Dr. Daniel Wong and his medical team performed cardiac surgery to save his life.
- During the weeks following his surgery, a vital signs monitor at Bob's bedside in the Patient Care Centre ensured his medical team was aware of even the slightest changes to his vital signs, and could respond immediately to any signs of distress.
- Bob is now well on the road to recovery. He completed cardiac rehabilitation on September 28.

About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation:

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Every year we fund approximately 40 per cent of capital equipment purchases for these hospitals. Last year, this amounted to nearly \$4.5 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to the more than 750,000 residents of the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised more than \$80 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, please call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.

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