Each year more than 650 patients in need of intensive medical treatment are admitted to one of Bryn Mawr Hospital’s critical care units. Now, construction is underway to create a new state-of-the-art Critical Care Unit, within the seven-story Patient Pavilion, to enhance the experience of our most vulnerable patients.
What is Critical Care?

Critical care (sometimes also known as intensive care) is a branch of medicine addressing the diagnosis and management of patients with life-threatening injuries and illnesses, as well as monitoring patients during the crucial hours following a major surgery. Critical care patients may have failure of several organs or body systems due to complications from surgery, accidents, infections and severe breathing problems.

Hospitals often have different specialized critical care units, each of which provides a specific type of critical or intensive care, or has a specific cohort of critically ill patients. Examples at Bryn Mawr Hospital include the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Neurocardiac Intensive Care Unit (NCICU) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Because we care for our sickest patients in critical care, we use the most sophisticated level of monitoring in a hospital involving constant attention by a team of specially trained health care providers.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Critical Care Unit

What does this community need most? Ten years ago when the initial conversations for Bryn Mawr Hospital’s campus master plan began, this question was front of mind. What were the most pressing needs to address with aging facilities and in an era of rapid change in the healthcare field?

The ultimate result is Bryn Mawr Hospital’s seven-story Patient Pavilion—a new beacon of light to serve families who have relied on and supported their community hospital for almost 125 years.

From the very beginning, there was unanimous agreement the campus project had to address the facilities supporting the treatment of the Hospital’s most critically ill patients—specifically the Intensive Care Unit, with a footprint dating back to the 1980s.

“Given the constraints of the existing unit, renovation was not an option. We wanted to create a new space for high-acuity care delivery that meets today’s standards for size and configuration, best supports the work of our highly trained clinical staff and enhances the experience for the patient as well as their loved ones—who frequently spend long periods of time by the bedside.” says Joan E. Gibson, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Director of Nursing Operations for Bryn Mawr Hospital.

The physicians, nurses and support staff who spend their days working in the critical care environment designed the new unit, not hospital administrators. Room design was painstakingly thought through, mocked up and tested first-hand by representatives of each department who would normally set foot in the space. Priorities included doubling room size, optimizing natural light, private bathrooms, consistent layout, designated areas for clinical work and specialized equipment, accommodations for visitors to stay overnight and access to private patient transport elevators separate from the public.

The Pavilion Critical Care Unit is being outfitted in phases with the first 18 rooms opening as a fully functioning unit in conjunction with the opening of the rest of the Pavilion in early 2019. The remaining space is shelled for now with the option to fit out for 14 additional patient rooms.

“We know we have the excellent critical care staff who give all they can to ensure a superior patient experience,” says Amy Pelleg, MSN, RN, CCRN, Nurse Manager, BMH Intensive Care Unit. In fact the Bryn Mawr Hospital Intensive Care Unit was among 50 hospitals selected nationwide to participate in a research study looking at best practices for involving family members in patient care. “We have just been limited by our physical space. Not anymore!”

What does this community need most? Ten years ago when the initial conversations for Bryn Mawr Hospital’s campus master plan began, this question was front of mind. What were the most pressing needs to address with aging facilities and in an era of rapid change in the healthcare field?
DEAR FRIENDS OF BRYN MAWR HOSPITAL,

At the time of this writing, a huge construction crane on the campus of Bryn Mawr Hospital occupies the skyline as it hoists steel into place so that we stay on schedule for the early 2019 opening of the new Patient Pavilion. The crane is a dynamic reminder of the “heavy lifting” involved to construct a building that will house physicians and care teams doing the complex work of caring for people, young, old, and in between.

The Patient Pavilion will include a new Critical Care Unit, which will provide a completely modern environment for the extraordinary talents of the Hospital’s critical care team. Incidentally, I have excellent sources for my assessment of the team as “extraordinary”: The American Association of Critical Care Nurses awarded the Silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence to Bryn Mawr Hospital. The Beacon Award recognizes North American hospital units that make evidence-based superior care a top priority.

My other source for information is my wife, Lesty, who has volunteered on the Unit for over twenty years. Each week, Lesty sees first-hand the lengths to which the care teams go to ensure that these seriously ill patients have the best health outcomes and the best hospital experience possible.

On behalf of Lesty and all of the critical care volunteers and team members, thank you for your interest in Bryn Mawr Hospital’s work.

RICHARD C. ILL
CHAIR
CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

FOR EVERY GENERATION:
The Campaign for Bryn Mawr Hospital

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$30 MILLION GOAL

$28.4 MILLION RAISED TO DATE*

FOR EVERY GENERATION

*AS OF MARCH 15, 2016
The critical care team is comprised of individuals from a variety of medical professions who work together to help their patients heal and feel more comfortable. Members of the team often include:

- medical doctors—sometimes known as intensivists—who may be experts in a specific area such as surgery, internal medicine, anesthesiology or pulmonology;
- physician assistants or certified nurse practitioners who are also able to order and interpret tests, prescribe medications and perform some medical procedures as they work under the doctor’s lead;
- critical care nurses—often registered nurses with extensive experience or advanced certification in critical care;
- therapists—caregivers with special knowledge and practice in helping patients with breathing problems (respiratory therapists); movement problems involving muscles, bones, tissues or nerves (physical therapists); or needing to relearn life skills such as grooming, feeding and dressing, in order to live independently (occupational therapists); and
- technicians, pharmacists, dieticians, social workers, palliative care staff, chaplains and many more.

Acuity-Adaptability—Foresight for the Future

We hear about it all the time: medicine is changing; the nature of care provided in hospitals is evolving. With more and more minimally invasive procedures on the rise, and more effective treatment methods, we are becoming better at keeping patients out of the hospital. Average length of stay has been declining and inpatient acuity—that is, the severity of illness of those requiring inpatient admission—is on the rise. With a population aging faster than the national average, and thus more prone to serious health conditions, the need for acute-care facilities in our region continues to be essential.

“There has been a tremendous shift in healthcare over the past decade—from caring for patients within our walls, to being more proactive with wellness initiatives in order to keep our patients healthy and out of the hospital,” says Clarke U. Piatt, MD, FCCP, DABSM, Medical Director of Critical Care, BMH. “But that also means when a patient does need to be admitted, we should be prepared to care for them at the highest level of acuity.”

Bryn Mawr Hospital’s new Patient Pavilion includes a designated Critical Care Unit, but also addresses high-acuity care on its additional two inpatient units. “Our non-critical care patient units are actually set up in the exact same format as the Critical Care Unit,” says Marianne Harkin, BSN, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President, Patient Services, BMH.

“They have been built to provide access to the same broad variety of medical gasses and other specialized equipment so that, if needed in the future, they could be adapted to accommodate critical care patients.”
In its earliest beginnings as a one-day event, the Devon Horse Show was designed to encourage local farmers to breed more and better horses for transportation, as well as improve the local hunter stock. The mission—and impact—of Devon has transformed over time. Today, rich with history, it has vibrant energy, widespread appeal, and a powerful fundraising arm led by the volunteers of the Country Fair.

In 1919—a historic year for women’s suffrage—women of the Main Line volunteered their time to establish the Show’s Country Fair as a fundraiser to benefit the local community hospital. Their efforts resulted in their first gift to Bryn Mawr Hospital—$27,000. The annual tradition has continued. By 1955, total proceeds given by Devon in support of the Hospital had passed the $1 million mark. The annual sum has grown year after year and broke all records in 2015 with a gift of $500,000 presented to BMH leadership.

In 2014, Devon was selected to receive the Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raising Group award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals at its National Philanthropy Day ceremony. That same year, Devon leaders voted to make an extraordinary pledge—a $2 million commitment to BMH’s transformative modernization project and For Every Generation campaign. To date, Devon’s contributions to the Hospital total more than $15 million.

In recognition of this magnificent campaign gift, BMH’s new Critical Care Unit in the Patient Pavilion will be dedicated in honor of Devon—a lasting reminder of the special relationship between our two community establishments that many more volunteers and patrons will participate in for generations to come.

FROM EVERY GENERATION

Since 1896, the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair has been an iconic Main Line institution, beloved by all generations. For decades, Devon’s philanthropic roots have been entwined with a single beneficiary, another community establishment only three years older and six miles down the road—Bryn Mawr Hospital.
For the past year, a private family foundation with a deep appreciation for Bryn Mawr Hospital’s role in this community has been matching new commitments of $50,000, $100,000 and $250,000 dollar-for-dollar.

This special opportunity, which doubles the value of the gift, enables the Hospital to recognize these new major gift donors with site-specific recognition of a patient room, a caregiver station or an operating room, respectively.

Several participants will be using their recognition opportunity to honor a particular caregiver or memorialize a loved one in a lasting way that will publicly pay tribute to these individuals for generations to come.

Match funds are limited and allocated in the order in which new commitments are received. Please contact Michael Criscuolo, Executive Director of the Bryn Mawr Hospital Foundation, at 484.337.8187 or criscuolom@mlhs.org for details about the Major Gifts Match.

Perhaps more than anyone, physicians and employees at Bryn Mawr Hospital and throughout Main Line Health understand the significance of BMH’s Campus Modernization Project. These individuals—who dedicate their time and talent to support the wellbeing of our community every day—have also given their personal treasure, to the tune of more than $1 MILLION so far.