



Press Release

Wednesday, 25th October, 2006

New 183-bed, Beacon Hospital Officially Opens in Sandyford

- Public and private patients to benefit from state-of-the-art facility -

The Minister for Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney T.D. today (October 25, 2006) officially opened the new 183-bed, state-of-the-art, Beacon Hospital in Sandyford, Dublin. This will be the first privately funded hospital to be built in Dublin in the past 22 years, and when fully operational, and will employ some 450 people. The €183m Beacon Hospital will allocate up to 50% of its available capacity to the treatment of public patients. The hospital has agreement in principle with VHI Healthcare subject to contract in addition to the existing cover provided by VIVAS.

Beacon Hospital will be managed by Triad Hospitals, Inc., one of the largest hospital operators in the US. Triad, a Fortune 500 company, has vast experience in hospital management, owning 54 hospitals and managing a further 180 across the United States.

Through an affiliation with the Beacon Medical Group, Beacon Hospital will also rely on world-renowned Johns Hopkins Medicine International to provide health education and consulting services to the hospital's physicians and nurses.

"The creation of Beacon Hospital has given our company an opportunity to bring the best of what we know about healthcare to Dublin. We value the relationships we have built up in Ireland including one with BMG, whose vision has guided this project to completion and will continue to contribute to its future success", stated James D. Shelton, chairman and CEO of Triad Hospitals, Inc.

The 238,000 sq ft, nine-floor Beacon Hospital, will provide world-class acute care services, including heart surgery, neuro-surgery, and emergency medicine services. There will also be an oncology day treatment centre along with therapeutic radiography services.

Beacon Hospital is the European showcase for General Electric (GE) equipment and is the only hospital in Ireland that has a full complement of the most advanced radiology equipment under one roof. The hospital is the brainchild of cardio-thoracic surgeon, Prof J. Mark Redmond who has brought his vision to fruition in conjunction his two partners in Beacon Medical Group, Michael Cullen and Paddy Shovlin, and also with Triad Hospitals.

Professor Redmond stated: “Beacon Hospital’s world-class medical services and equipment, will be available to both public and private patients, regardless of background or income.” He added: “the opening of Beacon Hospital is a of major significance in Irish healthcare as it brings a facility of international standard to the people of Ireland.”

Michael Cullen, Chairman and CEO of Beacon Medical Group (BMG) stated “we received planning permission for this hospital from Dunlaoighre-Rathdown Council in May 2003 and officially launched the project in November 2004. Our entire team has delivered a major world-class hospital within budget and on time in two short years.” He believes that it will set “a new benchmark for hospital services in this country”. Michael complimented the hard work and vision of many key facilitator organisations, including Ulster Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland who financed the development of Beacon Hospital.

Beacon Hospital will have eight operating theatres, two endoscopy suites and fourteen critical care beds. The eight operating theatres will be divided into dedicated rooms for neurosurgery, urology, cardiac, general, orthopaedic and ophthalmic surgery.

The Critical Care Unit is a fourteen-bed unit with individual glass-fronted cubicles, in order to ensure privacy and to minimise the risk of infection. The open plan design allows for visibility of all patients at all times. The design of the hospital is such that

many of the diagnostic intervention units are easily accessible to the Critical Care Unit, which may save lives in emergency situations.

A collaborative approach that advocates the values promoted in a nursing model called “Relationship Based Care,” is being implemented at the hospital. Relationship Based Care focuses on compassion and care of the patient and places them at the heart of the Hospital’s operations, recognising that patients have individual needs. This model of nursing has been proven to work in Denmark, the US and the UK and increases patient satisfaction by up to 9%.

Through a joint programme with University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre’s (UPMC) cancer centres, the largest clinical cancer care network in the United States, Beacon Hospital plans to offer the best cancer treatment technology, expertise, and treatment delivery system that is available today. State-of-the-art radiotherapy and imaging services that will be provided at the centre include Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and its next and newest form, Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT). IMRT allows the delivery of a uniform dose of high-energy x-ray to the affected region, destroying the cancer cells while sparing the surrounding normal tissue.

The hospital will also operate a one-stop advanced radiology service. Significant capital expenditure is being dedicated to the diagnostic services in the hospital so that there is a paperless, filmless and seamless service provided. As the GE showcase site for Europe, Beacon Hospital will have the most up-to-date radiology systems including MRI, CT scanner with cardiac capabilities, CT Sim and PET / CT. It will also feature digital radiology suites with advanced mammography, nuclear medicine and ultrasound as well as angiography suites and laboratories with advanced single and bi-plane systems and fluoroscopy.

Innovative IT solutions will allow doctors to remotely access a patient’s treatment records, review their care and act accordingly. This, coupled with a fingerprinting system for the dispersion of drugs to patients, will provide an unrivalled level of quality care for patients.

Deborah Brehe, CEO of Beacon Hospital, said that she is very encouraged by the quality of staff that they have recruited. “We looked for the highest quality of staff in order to complement the state-of-the-art equipment that we have purchased for the hospital. And we have found them. This will allow us to provide a world-class service to the people of Ireland”

Beacon Hospital will be operational in November 2006 with additional services opening in early 2007. These will include a consultant-led Emergency Department as well as clinics in the areas of urology, musculoskeletal pain, screening for the elderly, paediatrics and cancer screening.