Beacon Hospital Unveils Women’s Health Centre
- Comprehensive gynaecological care from teens to maturity -

Ms. Mary O’Rourke T.D. was on hand today, (Wednesday, 1st August), to officially open a dedicated women’s health centre at Beacon Hospital, Sandyford. The centre will provide readily-accessible quality care, much of which is not widely available in Ireland, in a modern environment, utilising minimally invasive procedures whenever possible, with a speedy turn around time for patients. Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre encompasses the full spectrum of women’s gynaecological needs from contraceptive advice and HPV vaccine against cervical cancer for younger women to early pregnancy screening and the investigation of postmenopausal bleeding in the mature woman.

Minimally invasive surgery will be one of the key services provided at the centre as many gynaecological procedures can now be performed as laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery. In addition to aiding a speedy recovery, laparoscopic surgery cases can be performed as day surgery, meaning there is no need to stay in the hospital overnight. Conditions which can be treated using minimally invasive techniques include ovarian cysts, ectopic pregnancies and fibroid resection.

Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre will also offer a full range of services relating to sexual and reproductive health from the HPV vaccine (Gardasil), contraceptive advice and solutions for painful periods to fertility assessment and smear testing. It is expected that smear tests results will be available within two - three weeks.

Early pregnancy assessment is another integral part of the service offered at the Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre. This will be offered on a same day or next
day basis and the results are available immediately, unless blood tests are required. Up to 60% of women experience bleeding or pain in early pregnancy (up to 12 weeks gestation), which can cause significant anxiety.

Other services offered at the centre include transvaginal scans (TV scans), the results of which are available immediately. Office based procedures, such as colposcopy and hysteroscopy, that allow one-stop diagnosis and treatment, are also available, therefore reducing the need for repeat consultations.

According to Dr. Sharon Moss, Consultant Gynecologist, Beacon Hospital, “Many women still shy away from dealing with gynaecological health due to common negative emotions associated with such examinations. Here at the Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre we focus on offering easy access, and rapid diagnosis and treatment in an office environment whenever possible, making the experience as stress free as possible for the patient.”

“The many advances in gynaecology over recent years means that treatment is easier and quicker than ever before”, added Dr. Kent Ayers, Consultant Gynaecologist at the hospital.

Speaking at the launch of the Beacon Hospital Women’s Centre, Mary O’Rourke T.D. said; “It is so important that we encourage women to look after themselves and be proactive about their health. Thankfully there is no need for women nowadays to suffer with women’s problems as our mothers and grandmothers did. Modern medicine is offering solutions to many of the age old women’s problems and the services being provided at the Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre are a positive step in ensuring that the women of Ireland have top quality healthcare services available to them.”

Dr. Kent Ayers and Dr. Sharon Moss, Consultant Gynecologists, will both will be based full time at the Beacon Hospital Women’s Centre, ensuring prompt appointments once a GP referral is made. The clinic will be open Monday – Friday from 8am to 1pm, which will be extended as demand for the service grows. Patients can be referred by their GPs. Dr. Ayers and Dr. Moss, both are solely gynaecologists
and do not practice in obstetrics. This ensures that they are fully committed to their area of expertise.

A unique advantage of the Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre is its location within Beacon Hospital. As such there is rapid access to other departments within the hospital as required, including the Emergency Department, Cancer Centre, diagnostic imaging, radiology etc.

The services provided at Beacon Hospital Women’s Centre are through the Outpatients Department and as such patients with health insurance with VHI and Vivas Health can reclaim some of their cost outlay. Beacon Hospital are finalising an agreement with Quinn Direct to ensure their members also benefit from the services at the hospital.

As part of its campaign to raise awareness of women’s health, Beacon Hospital is holding a public seminar on women’s health this evening to mark the official opening of the Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre. Entitled ‘Gynaecology – from mythology to modern management’, the seminar will take place in Beacon Hospital at 6.30pm today.

**Services Provided at Beacon Hospital Women’s Health Centre**

- **Sexual and reproductive health** - all matters of sexual health and contraception

- **Menstrual dysfunction** - any matters related to problems of menstruation, such as heavy bleeding or premenstrual tension

- **Pelvic pain and endometriosis** - issues pertaining to acute or chronic pelvic pain, as well as diagnosis and management of endometriosis

- **Menopause** - diagnosis and management of menopause, including related issues such as abnormal bleeding and osteoporosis risk assessment
- **Fertility** - general work-up for primary or secondary infertility

- **Early pregnancy assessment** - assessment and ultrasound scanning for bleeding or pain in early pregnancy (up to 14 weeks), as well as early scans for dating or reassurance

- **Laparoscopic sterilisation** - counselling for women seeking tubal sterilisation

- **Minimally invasive surgery** - hysteroscopic and laparoscopic alternatives to most operative procedures (ovarian cysts / ectopic pregnancies / fibroid resection)

- **Outpatient procedures** - same day assessment of bleeding disorders with ultrasound and outpatient hysteroscopy, as well as IUD insertion

- **Adolescent gynaecology** - advice regarding contraception, menstrual disorders and hormonal irregularities

- **Colposcopy** - assessment and management of abnormal smear results

- **Recurrent miscarriage assessment** - investigation for recurrent miscarriage (3 or more consecutive miscarriages)

- **Emergency Gynaecology** - rapid assessment of acute gynaecological problems as referred via the Emergency Room, including ectopic pregnancies, ovarian cysts and heavy PV bleeding

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**Sample Price List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Consultation – First Visit</td>
<td>€200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat Visit</td>
<td>€100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Pregnancy – First Visit</td>
<td>€200 (includes scan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Pregnancy – Repeat Visit</td>
<td>€100 (includes scan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans vaginal scan (TVS)</td>
<td>Free of charge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Ultrasound scan, using an internal probe, giving as superior visualisation of the vagina)

IUD insertion €100

(Coil contraceptive device)

Implanon Removal / Insertion / Change €100

(Contraceptive device inserted under the skin in the arm)

Smear Test €90

Biographies

Dr Kent Ayers was born and educated in New Zealand. Having qualified as a doctor he moved to the UK for specialist training and worked as a Consultant on the south coast. He moved to Dublin late last year and has been practicing at Beacon Hospital since January. Although he is a general gynaecologist, he has special interests in reproductive medicine (fertility and recurrent miscarriage) and minimal access (keyhole) surgery.

Dr Sharon Moss is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She held Consultants posts in Melbourne before moving to Dublin in 2003. Before taking up her post at Beacon Hospital she worked at the Rotunda Hospital for over three years running the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit and the Outpatient Hysteroscopy Clinic. She practices Gynaecology only so that she can fully devote her time and expertise to providing a high standard of care for women.

Background Information on Beacon Hospital

The 238,000 sq ft, nine-floor Beacon Hospital was opened in October 2006, and provides world-class acute care services, including heart surgery, neurosurgery, and emergency medicine services. There is also 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.
Beacon Hospital has eight operating theatres, two endoscopy suites and fourteen critical care beds. The eight operating theatres are 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.

Beacon Hospital recently opened its new Consultant-delivered Emergency Department at Beacon Hospital in March 2007. Beacon Hospital Emergency Department is the first Emergency Department in the Eastern region attached to an independent hospital, giving patients immediate access to all of the major specialities on site, including some of the most advanced diagnostic and laboratory services available in the region, such as X-Ray, Ultrasound, CT, MRI, routine and specialised blood tests.

Further information on Beacon Hospital can be located at www.beaconhospital.ie