

F.A.Q.

Maine Medical Center Expansion Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this construction project?

This project replaces and modernizes existing facilities and serves to ensure Maine Medical Center will continue to deliver the world-class clinical care that its patients need.

What are the benefits of this project?

The project will deliver improved patient care, access, reliability, hospital experience, and population/preventative health services. Specifically it adds more single-bed rooms and more beds that can handle a range of patient conditions, it upgrades procedure rooms and replaces aging structures, including the employee parking garage.

How much will the project cost?

The estimated cost of the project is \$512 million, \$50 million of which will go toward outpatient facilities and services with the balance spent at Maine Medical Center's main campus.

Why is this necessary?

Many buildings on Maine Medical Center's campus are reaching the end of their useful life. Also, the nature of the care delivered at Maine Med is changing. Our patients on average have more serious conditions and we need to modernize to keep up with the growing demands this creates. It would be irresponsible for us to not make these investments on behalf of our patients.

Who will benefit most from this expansion?

This project is designed to benefit patients first and foremost through enhanced clinical care and services as well as an improved hospital experience; employees as well as visitors will also benefit from new, more modern facilities.

How will this project improve clinical care?

With more single-bed rooms, more beds that can adapt to the type of care patients need (intensive care, medical-surgical, etc.) and modern procedure rooms our staff will have greater capacity to respond to the changing needs of our patient population.

How else will this benefit employees?

New facilities will make delivering care more efficient, easier and more effective, which is the overwhelming goal for all of our employees.



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How will the project change the nature of the clinical programs and services you provide?

We are working on an analysis now of how to best use the project to benefit clinical programs. Our commitment is to provide the highest quality, most modern care to our patients. That means we will be offering new services and treatments as medicine evolves. This project will position us to do that.

Hasn't MMC added other facilities recently?

Yes. In 2008 we opened the East Tower to accommodate mother and baby, emergency medicine and some other services, and in 2015 we opened our Surgery 2 pavilion featuring five new modern operating theaters. This project is the latest phase in our facility planning work and is by far the largest renovation undertaken as part of that work.

Does this solve all of MMC's facility challenges?

No. Replacements and upgrades are a constant process at any hospital.

How will MMC pay for this project?

Several sources of funding will pay for the project's costs. About half will come from existing reserves and private donations, while the other half will be paid for with a loan (bond).

Can Maine Medical Center afford this project?

Yes. Spread out over several years, the loan that will pay for the project will affect our charges by less than 1 percent going forward. There are also significant cost savings that will be achieved in the form of having a more efficient space to work in and reduced maintenance costs.

Will the cost of patient care and services go up?

As noted above, the cost of this project will have a very small impact on hospital charges going forward – less than 1 percent. There is a risk of an increased cost of care for patients if we don't complete this project, including delays in admitting patients, the impact of inefficient facilities and the maintenance costs associated with older facilities.

How many jobs will the project create?

The project's construction phase will generate many jobs over a multi-year period. How many jobs the project will add to the hospital's permanent payroll is impossible to predict because employment numbers are driven by patient volumes, changes in technology, care practices and the overall financial health of MMC and the local economy. Those trends do point to a larger role for the medical center and stable or growing employment going forward.

How will the community benefit from this project?

First and foremost this project will allow us to maintain a very high level of care for the most challenging and complex cases. In addition, this project will be also be good for Portland, revitalizing a part of town along Congress Street that will benefit from the energy our new hospital entrance will bring.