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JUNE 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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SoutheastHEALTH has opened a new, patient-centered Heart and Vascular Pavilion at Southeast Hospital. The new unit, located on the Hospital's fifth floor, has been under construction since July of 2018.

Nurse Manager Jennifer Kiplinger, BSN, RN, OCN, says the unit has 14 spacious private rooms, each with upscale private baths that include walk-in showers with decorative tile accents. The unit is a "step down" unit from Cardiothoracic Intensive Care, where heart surgery patients begin their recovery.

The new pavilion, Kiplinger adds, "is built on the concept of decentralized nursing care. There is no central nurses' station. The nurses are positioned just outside patients' rooms at desks along the hallway. Each desk has windows into the patient room to assure our patients receive close observation by the nursing staff. It gets nurses back to the bedside, where they need to be."

"This unit provides the same attention to care that patients experience in the CTU," Kiplinger noted. "Patients have an added level of comfort knowing that their nurse is just a few steps away and readily available to answer any needs and concerns. The design also contributes to better continuity as patients transition from critical care to this cardiac step down unit."

Decorated in soothing tones of green, orange, brown and blue, the unit features sleek, modern furniture, artwork created by local artists, quartz countertops and Smart TVs. Large, new windows afford patients pleasant views. Innovative call light technology allows patients and families to have control not only of the television but also interior lighting at the touch of a button.

"We have also taken steps that to help ensure patient safety," Kiplinger says. These include patient recliners that can easily be operated with one hand and will not tip when patients stand up and improved over-the-bed tables with extra storage. Four rooms have ceiling lifts that can move patients from bed to bath if the need arises.

The unit also includes a dedicated work area for ancillary staff such as physical therapy, dietary and case management. Physicians have a private dictation room.

“This unit offers patients an entirely different way of nursing.” Kiplinger adds. “It creates a hotel-like setting with a calming atmosphere that removes patients from the hospital hustle and bustle. We believe that patients and families will have an excellent patient experience which is always our goal.”

About SoutheastHEALTH

At SoutheastHEALTH, the region's premier healthcare system in southeast Missouri, our patients receive excellent care of the highest clinical quality, close to home. Within our network are more than 50 care locations in 13 communities, including hospitals, primary and specialty care clinics representing over 30 clinical specialties and extending care for patients in a four-state area. Learn more at SEhealth.org.

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