

Firstenburg Patient Care Center at Southwest Washington Medical Center

Vancouver,
Washington



Southwest Washington Medical Center's \$105 million expansion not only doubled the size of the Vancouver campus, but also established several "firsts" within the health care industry.

The multi-phase project added 457,200 square feet, including a three-and-a-half level addition to an existing parking structure, a new central utility plant and extensive upgrades to an existing emergency department. The campus' new centerpiece is Firstenburg Patient Care Tower, an eight-story structure housing 154 private patient rooms, 15 operating suites and other hospital services.

Among the tower's many innovations, sliding glass doors lead into the patient rooms, making SWMC the first hospital in the United States to use them. The 56-inch-wide opening makes it easier to move beds in and out, creates a seating area and nursing station outside each room, and helps keep hallway noises from disturbing patients. When the concept was proposed during design, however, no such product



existed that met code requirements. The team worked through multiple options and mock-ups to find a solution.

SWMC's main objective was to create a patient-care facility that didn't have the institutional look or feel of traditional hospitals. A significant amount of effort went into site development, transforming what had been paved parking areas into a landscaped space in front of the building.

SERVICES

- Civil Site Design
- Civil Engineering Design

DESIGN FEATURES

- \$145 Million Project
- 457,200 Square-Foot Expansion and Upgrade to Existing Medical Center
- Nine-Story Structure, Housing 154 Private Patient Rooms, 15 Operating Suites and Other Hospital Services
- The Tower Creates a New Centerpiece for the Medical Campus

AWARDS

- First Place, DJC 2008 Top Projects in SW Washington, \$100+ Million