145 new seats, but dining area closed two months

Hospital to Renovate Garden View Café

In another sign of expansion, the hospital will begin a remodeling project this week that will add 145 seats to the dining area of the Garden View Café in the Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion. The work will, however, close the main seating area for a little more than two months, hospital leaders said.

To prepare for the expansion, workers will close the Garden View from 1 a.m. Friday, Nov. 30, to 1 a.m. Monday, Dec. 3, to install a temporary construction barrier between the dining/construction and serving areas for infection control.

While there will be no dining room seating in the Garden View during the renovation — a small number of bar and countertop seats near the south entrance will remain — all items from the deli, pizza oven, grill, salad bar and grab-and-go cases will be available, with two cashier stations open for payment. Only the self-serve soda machine and ice cream freezer and some candy and chips selections will temporarily be taken out of circulation, Ruiz said.

Patient and visitor convenience. The Courtyard Café, meanwhile, will maintain its usual 6 a.m.-to-2:30 p.m. weekday schedule while the work is underway, said Derek Rushing, vice president of Clinical and Support Services. However, the hospital will restrict the Courtyard to patients and visitors until work on the Garden View is finished, he added.

With seating very limited in the Garden View, Rushing asked employees to consider alternative dining locations. “To minimize inconvenience to patients and visitors, we ask that employees take the food they purchase in the Garden View Café to their office, to a care team lounge or outside, when the weather is nice,” he said.

The Courtyard Café, in the Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion, will serve staff, patients and visitors from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., which are the Garden View’s normal hours, during the Nov. 30 to early Dec. 3 closure, said Victoria Franklin, UCH director of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

The Garden View will reopen without dining-area seating and workers will begin the remodeling project Dec. 3. The hospital expects to complete the renovation and open the expanded dining room in early February. The new space will have seating for 337, up from the current 192, according to Facilities Expansion Project Executive Tony Ruiz.

The serving areas of the Garden View Café will remain open during renovation of the dining area, which begins Nov. 30 and is slated to run through early February.
However, he added, the hospital also plans to construct a temporary food kiosk at the west end of the second-floor bridge that connects the Anschutz Outpatient and Anschutz Cancer pavilions. The aim is to reduce the amount of time employees who work in the outpatient buildings would otherwise have to spend getting to the Garden View, at the west end of the hospital, during meal breaks, Rushing said.

"Just as we are making Food and Nutrition Services as accessible as possible for patients and visitors, we want to have a food kiosk to lessen the impact of the renovation on our employees," Rushing said.

The hospital hopes to open the kiosk the first week of the Garden View renovation, Ruiz added.

When it is ready, the kiosk will consist of stand-up coolers filled with salads, sandwiches, and wraps premade by FNS, as well as sushi, which the hospital purchases from the nearby Blue Lagoon restaurant. Cold bottled drinks, chips and other bagged items will be also available, Rushing said. Breakfast-goers will be able to purchase yogurt, granola, boxed cereal and the like, he added.

Employees will pay for meals from the kiosk only with a badge swipe or a credit card, Rushing said. No cash will be available.

The hospital also announced plans to hold its annual holiday breakfast (Dec. 10, 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and dinner (Dec. 12, 10:30 p.m. to midnight) in the Courtyard Café.

---

**Swap Meet**

With a major renovation of the Garden View Café looming (see above), the hospital used Thanksgiving weekend to juggle clinical space in the Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion. The aim: carve out room for a few more badly needed patient beds.

On Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, Facilities staff began swapping the pre- and post-Endoscopy and the Express Admit Unit (EAU) areas on the south side of the second floor of the AOP. When the work wrapped up Nov. 26, the EAU had 21 beds (up from 14) used for outside transfers, direct admits from UCH clinics and patients sent to the hospital from home.

The hospital chose the long weekend because both Endoscopy and the EAU were empty and the overall hospital census normally drops over the holiday, said Catherine Reeves, facilities expansion project manager. The EAU was ready to accept patients Monday, Nov. 26, Reeves said.

Meanwhile, the hospital plans to add 10 more beds in a storage area near the EAU formerly used by Interventional Radiology. Reeves said construction in the area should take three weeks and be complete Dec. 14. Furniture, IT equipment and other necessities would move in the following week, she added.

---

Endoscopy and the Express Admit Unit swapped spaces in the AOP over the Thanksgiving weekend.