

Viewpoints

Eastern Niagara Hospital's Vision for 2020

Eastern Niagara Hospital's (ENH) vision for 2020 includes several enhancements to services and a brand new Emergency Department (ED). The plans for the \$9.8 million investment involve adding on to the Hospital's existing structure on the south side of the facility.

As ENH builds out to create the state-of-the-art ED, the project will allow current services to continue in the existing emergency department. Anne McCaffrey, President & CEO said, "As we worked on the project design over the past months, it was very important for the hospital to be able to make these improvements, without any interruptions in care. Patient care is our top priority. This ongoing provision of care is imperative in order to continue meeting the region's emergency medical needs."

The new project design will address the current and future needs of the region by doubling the square footage of the department and adding space for a total of 16 private treatment rooms, as well as three triage rooms for staff to prioritize the most urgent needs. The triage rooms will also be utilized for



staff to treat and release patients with less critical issues. One room will also be specifically designated for psychiatric patient evaluations, when needed.

The improved design will maximize visualization of patients, which is critical for patient care and safety during periods of high volume. The project's increased capacity will help to facilitate patient flow and expedite care. This assists EMTs in returning to their districts with ambulances in a timelier period, so they may continue being responsive to their individual respective communities.

The project is scheduled to begin this summer along with the addition of UB MD Emergency Medicine physicians. ENH made the decision to align with Kaleida Health's service model by engaging UB MD physicians to staff the Emergency Department. In addition to the group's service in other Kaleida facilities, such as Millard Fillmore Suburban and DeGraff Memorial Hospitals,



the physicians will begin providing care in Eastern Niagara's Emergency Department on July 1.

In addition to enhancing emergency care, the Hospital also announced it recently received DNV accreditation. McCaffrey added, "This was an exceptional achievement and further evidence of our goal to provide a higher level of care for our patients and the community. I commend our dedicated team of nurses, physicians and support staff who made this possible. These are the first of many improvements designed to make our Hospital a pillar in the community."



Pfalzgraf, Beinhauer & Menzies, LLP: Basic Estate Planning Documents



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It is important to know that legal documents are personal and tailored for individual needs. However, there are three basic estate planning documents that all adults should have in place to assure that your wishes are followed and you choose who will be in charge of decisions for you.

Last Will and Testament

A Last Will and Testament is a legal document that contains personal instructions for distribution of assets following your death. A Will allows you to designate the beneficiaries of your estate and may include age restrictions for pay-out of the inheritance. A Will document also allows you to nominate a person to serve as Executor of your estate to wrap-up final affairs upon your death. A Will can also be an important planning tool, especially for married couples worried about long-term care planning. For example, a Will document that leaves the entire estate to your spouse may no longer be appropriate if your spouse is likely to need nursing home care. An advance plan with an attorney can help protect assets from nursing home costs.

Durable General Power of Attorney

A Durable Power of Attorney is a legal document in which you ap-



point an agent to make financial decisions on your behalf, during your lifetime, in the event you become incompetent or disabled. A Durable Power of Attorney can often avoid the need for costly guardianship proceedings. A Durable Power of Attorney terminates upon your death.

Health Care Directive

A Health Care Proxy document allows you to designate an agent to make medical decisions in the event that you are unable to do so. A Living Will is appropriate for anyone who is concerned about being kept alive in an unconscious or vegetative state when there is no reasonable ex-

pectation of recovery. In New York, a Living Will is evidence of your intentions in case there is a contest over your agent's decisions about your care. A health care directive can express your wishes to your family and often avoids the need for protracted guardianship proceedings. A health care directive terminates upon your death.

If you have any questions about the above material, please contact Pfalzgraf, Beinhauer & Menzies, LLP at (716) 204-1055. Pfalzgraf, Beinhauer & Menzies, LLP is located at 455 Cayuga Road, Suite 600, Buffalo, New York 14225.



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