

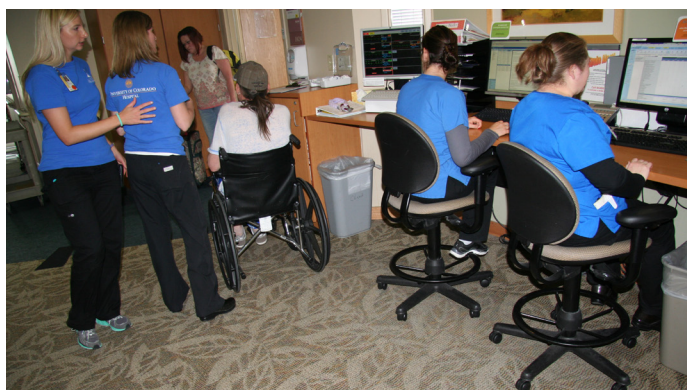
## Neuro, Cardiac Units Make Smooth Move to AIP 2

By Tyler Smith

Less than two years after breaking ground on a new inpatient tower, University of Colorado Hospital successfully completed the first phase of the move-in to the 12-story structure.

The Neuro ICU led the transition, leaving its former 10-bed home in the critical care wing in the early-morning hours of May 6 for a 24-bed unit in the new tower, dubbed Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion 2. By 7 a.m., the unit had finished moving 16 patients and opened as scheduled at 8 a.m.

The move came off without a hitch, said Robert Neumann, MD, PhD, medical director of the Neuro ICU, as he stood in the new unit about three hours after it opened. Teams moved the patients one at a time, he said, with the first two making stops at CT imaging before settling into beds on the unit. Staff “re-triaged” the remaining patients in AIP 1, Neumann said, to determine the moving order to the new tower.



*Staff prepares to move next-to-last patient from the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit on the 10th floor of AIP 1 to the new unit on the third floor of AIP 2.*

“The new unit gives us more space to work, a new environment and a new level of enthusiasm,” Neumann said. Volume routinely overwhelmed the old unit, he said, sending patients to the Critical

Care Surge Unit (CCSU), carved last year from the Inpatient Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, as well as all the other intensive care units.



*Staff in the new CICU in AIP 2, minutes before the first patient arrived from the old unit.*

“Logistically, it’s been a challenge,” Neumann admitted. He said the unit has averaged 18 to 20 patients for the past three months. “It’s no secret our ICU has been stressful because of that. This move brightens things, especially for our experienced nurses.”

**Later time, same success.** The moves of the Cardiac Progressive Care and Intensive Care units on the 10th floor of AIP 1 to the third floor of the new structure followed later that day, with similarly smooth results. The new units contain 12 beds each.

The Cardiac Progressive Care Unit began moving nine patients from 10 East at about 9 a.m. Shortly after 11 a.m., just two remained, said Charge Nurse Emily Christopher, RN, as she and her team prepared to move one of them.

“We weren’t expecting to finish until 1 o’clock,” Christopher said.

*Continued*

Over on 10 West, the CICU began gearing up to move the first of seven patients at noon, an hour ahead of schedule.



*Nurses prepare to move CICU patient from his room on 10 West in AIP 1.*

"You've come a long way, my friend," a CICU nurse said to the patient, who is recovering from a heart attack. She and another nurse prepared monitors and oxygen and helped him into a wheelchair for the short ride to AIP 2. They wheeled him to the elevator, descended to the third floor and proceeded across the bridge to the new unit.

"I'm so happy to see you're doing well," one of the nurses said to the patient as she pushed him into the new CICU, where a team waited to help him into Room 365.



*CICU nurses wheel the patient across the bridge to the new tower.*

**Musical medicine.** The moves set off a large, ongoing reshuffling and reconfiguration in AIP 1. The old 10 East and West cardiac units, for example, now become a 36-bed Medical/Surgical Progressive Care Unit that will provide step-down care for patients who don't need intensive care, but are not yet ready to move to acute-care units, said Maureen Dzialo, RN, nurse manager of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and Telemetry. Patients were to begin moving into the new Progressive Care Unit Monday.

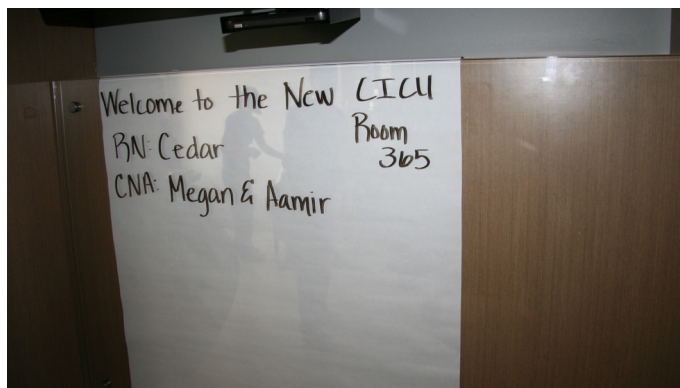
The existing Telemetry Unit, which remotely monitors patients' heart rhythms, oxygen saturation levels and other key data, will remain on the 10th floor of AIP 1, but a second unit is slated to open in the new AIP 2 Cardiac unit later this month, Dzialo said.



*Team in the new CICU gets patient settled in his room.*

Meanwhile, with the move of the Neuro ICU to AIP 2, the hospital closed the CCSU, returning the beds to the PACU. Late Monday morning, cleanup crews were hard at work in the vacated 10-bed Neuro, scrubbing floors and disinfecting beds and equipment. It will eventually be used as additional patient "surge" space, said Neuro ICU Clinical Nurse Educator Stephanie Cox, RN.

The action extended to the second floor of Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion, where the hospital closed the [Express Admit Unit \(EAU\)](#), created five years ago to handle excess capacity. Originally housed in the critical care wing, the EAU moved to the AOP during construction for the expansion.



*A small sign in Room 365 of the CICU signals the start of a new era in AIP 2.*

On Monday, other inpatient units absorbed patients from the EAU, which will temporarily reopen May 25 to accommodate patients





*Staff prepare for final departure from the old Neuro ICU early Monday morning.*

from the 34-bed Medical Surgical Holding Unit (MSHU) in the old ED space. The number of MSHU beds will decrease as the hospital moves equipment to the Oncology/BMT Unit on the 11th floor of AIP 1, which begins its expansion June 8, said Cathy Ehrenfeucht, RN, director of Critical Care, Cardiology and Dialysis. The EAU will hold some of the MSHU patients until June 8, then close permanently, Ehrenfeucht said.



*Staff enter a room in the new Neuro ICU as a patient arrives.*

**Perspiration pays off.** The long-anticipated Neuro and Cardiac relocations are the latest in a series of moves into the new tower. [The Emergency Department](#) relocated April 7 from its old home to a much larger space on the first floor of AIP 2. [The Cardiac & Vascular Center](#) completed a major expansion into the third floor of the new tower late last month. The Blood Bank wrapped up its move to the second floor of AIP 2 May 3. Staff there said they made the move without incident and have only unpacking and some validating of equipment to finish up.

The relatively glitch-free moves were the product of extensive

staff orientation, education and training that preceded them (*see accompanying story*). All staff working in the new tower were required to complete HealthStream modules, practice working with new equipment and participate in “day in the life” exercises to simulate their responses to codes and other medical emergencies.

“The training paid off,” said Justin Oeth, RN, nurse manager of the new Medical/Surgical Progressive Care Unit, as he moved through the relatively quiet 10th floor late Monday morning.



*Neuro ICU Clinical Nurse Educator Stephanie Cox, RN, writes down issues for patients in the new Neuro ICU in AIP 2.*



*Back at the old Neuro ICU, crews got started on cleanup shortly after the move.*



*Staff moved the Blood Bank to its new space on the second floor of AIP 2 May 3.*