

New Round Rock hospital prepares to open

Scott & White facility will be first of three new hospitals in Williamson County.

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ROUND ROCK — Scott & White's University Medical Campus in Round Rock, the first of three new hospitals opening in Williamson County within the next year, starts seeing patients Monday.

The \$81 million facility sits on 68 acres behind the Round Rock Premium Outlets on **University Boulevard**. The other new hospitals, Seton Medical Center Williamson in Round Rock and Cedar Park Regional Medical Center, are scheduled to open early next year.

Scott & White's new facility will offer 24-hour emergency services and more than two dozen specialty services, including heart care, orthopedic services, diagnostic imaging and testing, and women's and children's services.

Scott & White could expand the 72-bed facility within 18 months, said Dr. Dudley Baker, the hospital's chief medical officer. The hospital could double or triple in size and expand areas such as obstetrics and gynecology, surgery and imaging, he said.

Scott & White has two hospitals in Temple and 19 clinics across Central Texas.

During a tour of the hospital Wednesday, medical staff ran through emergency drills and explained the latest technologies.

The drills involved a simulation manikin, or SimMan, which can breathe, bleed and talk. The manikins are generally used at colleges and other hospitals as a teaching device. SimMan allows staff members to get better prepared for Monday, said Beth Wilde, a registered nurse and house supervisor.

Scott & White medical staff members focused on the hospital's technology as well, including a machine that studies the function of organs and can help detect if they're not working properly.

"The doctor won't have to order as many tests because of the information he's given," said Thomas Wright, a registered nuclear medical technologist. That means that "it doesn't take as long to come up with a diagnosis."

A \$300,000 echocardiogram down the hall can view a patient's heart in color and four dimensions.

Another machine takes X-ray images of the heart and enables staff to slow down or speed up a patient's heart rate, said Steven Gwynn, catheterization lab manager.

One missing element: paper. The facility is predominately electronic, which allows medical staff to view a patient's records from any other Scott & White hospital or clinic, Baker said.

"We're well-prepared," Baker said. "It's kickoff time."

Courtesy of JB Goodwin