

# New building at Redlands Community Hospital opening

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By DARRELL R. SANTSCHI  
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**Video:** [Redlands Community Hospital's new labor and delivery ward](#)

REDLANDS - Nurses, doctors and patients began moving into Redlands Community Hospital's new three-story, \$47 million maternity and surgery building Thursday, ending two years of construction and preparation.

A team of doctors, nurses and technicians will move into the ground-floor surgery center today. The move was to begin at 6:30 a.m., with the first surgery expected to take place about 1 p.m.

The building houses 12 labor and delivery rooms, five more than the unit had in the hospital's main building. There are eight operating rooms, two more than had been available.

"A lot of planning, a lot of moving and a lot of thinking in advance went into this," hospital labor and delivery manager Donna Goodner said as employees were settling in at midday, four hours after the move began. "It went perfect, without a hitch."

Nurses had the move so carefully planned that it took just eight minutes to move the patients along two hallways, down one elevator and up another, she said. The hospital brought in 14 extra employees, double the maternity department's normal staffing, to handle the transition.

"We call this the new building," Goodner said. "I was instrumental in moving from the old-old building to the old building. Now I'm involved in moving from the old building to the new building."

It took a lot of work.

"We've been planning this move for six months," said Kris Padrick, Redlands Community's interim director of nursing and operating room director.

One of the patients was beginning to go into labor Thursday morning and was expected to deliver the new building's first baby by nightfall.

The new building, sitting between a three-story education building and the main patient tower, will expand the hospital's capacity from 172 beds to 292 beds.

Its construction is part of a 20-year expansion plan.

Reach Darrell R. Santschi at 909-806-3067 or [dsantschi@PE.com](mailto:dsantschi@PE.com)



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Darrell R. Santschi / The Press-Enterprise  
Nurse Gary Caragao checks equipment in an operating room of the new maternity and surgery building at Redlands Community Hospital. Fellow nurse Lori Diaz lies on the gurney during the test.