

BROADCAST- Expanded ICU at OSF St. Joseph enhances critical care for the region

ANCHOR LEAD IN: OSF HealthCare is unveiling a nearly \$18 million, 25-bed ICU expansion, aimed at helping accommodate more patients with complex health issues transferring from other hospitals. OSF Leaders also say they've also recruited more providers to expand services to meet growing demands.

VO or Radio Script

OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center President Eunmee (UHN-mee) Shim, says the expansion more than doubles the number of ICU beds and is part of a larger strategy to allow the hospital to be a regional referral center. Over the last few years, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center has been forced to deny hundreds of incoming patient transfers from smaller community hospitals due to being at capacity.

"They're (rural hospitals) losing a lot of services, so as a regional referral center, we will be receiving a lot more patients; many of them can't get the care they need in their own community therefore likely they will be delaying care and presenting themselves much sicker." (:20)

The relocation of the ICU will also allow OSF HealthCare in the future to construct a new patient tower which will add 60-65 additional private beds.