

Over 100 more hospital beds for Calgary

122 of the 132 hospital beds are scheduled to be opened by December.

Alberta Health Services says 132 new hospital beds will be opening in Calgary and more care staff will be hired.

Some of the beds are those that were put on hold because of a lack of funding.

The acute care beds will be spread across three hospitals and AHS says it means fewer patients will receive their medical care in hallways.

AHS says a total of 153 positions will be created to support the new beds. They will consist of full-time and part-time nursing staff as well as care staff.

All the beds will open by December. Here is a list of where the beds are going and what patients they will serve:

- A new 32-bed short-term Convalescent Sub-Acute Care Unit at the Rockyview General Hospital, providing focused transition and rehabilitation care to help patients return to the community. This unit is slated to open in late September. The RGH has also added 10 beds that focus on providing care to patients with dementia.
- A new 32-bed Transition Unit at the Peter Lougheed Centre, to provide care for patients waiting for a community-based bed to become available, will open in mid-September.
- A new 20-bed Hospice at the Peter Lougheed Centre, providing care that meets end-of-life needs for clients and families for whom care at home is no longer possible, and who do not need the resources of a regular acute care unit, will open in November.
- A new 38-bed Transition Unit, similar to the unit at the Peter Lougheed Centre, opens at the Foothills Medical Centre in November. The opening of this unit will coincide with completion of the new McCaig Tower in November.
- 10 dementia care beds are now open at Rockyview General Hospital

"We are increasing access to hospital beds but we also need to care for those patients with needs that are not met with traditional acute care units, including patients who need long-term support, those gaining strength and skills to return to the community, and those who need palliative care," says Brenda Hubard, a senior vice president with AHS.

Health officials say their announcement comes with a \$15.7-million annual price tag.