SGH undergoes makeover

New clinics for specialised and coordinated care have opened after recent renovations, and wards are next to get a facelift

SINGAPORE General Hospital (SGH) is undergoing a major facelift. After months of construction, new clinics have opened, while some existing facilities have been expanded or improved.

After the remaining renovation and building work is done, the hospital and the rest of SGH Campus will be transformed into a vibrant academic medical centre.

On July 1, the Centre for Digestive and Liver Diseases opened its doors to patients suffering from complex digestive and liver disorders, such as liver and intestinal cancer, chronic hepatitis, liver failure, and chronic inflammatory disorders of the intestines.

The centre integrates the former C, D and E outpatient clinics to offer patients specialised and coordinated care in one facility. Patients will be able to consult their doctors at the centre, as well as undergo endoscopic and other tests, dietetic and drug management services, as the clinic pulls together a multitude of healthcare professionals providing different but complementary expertise. With the new premises, patients will no longer have to go to different places within SGH’s sprawling compound for different services.

Such integrated medical services are also offered at the new Autoimmunity and Rheumatology Centre, the only regional hub providing a one-stop service dedicated to complex rheumatology and autoimmune disorders. The centre, which opened in May this year, also provides physiotherapy and occupational therapy services, as well as drug management and patient education.

The Diabetes Centre, on the other hand, has been relocated to the basement of Block 1 from the ground floor of the same building. The new facility is much larger than the old one. These centres address the growing demand for care in various medical disciplines.

And it isn’t just clinics that are being made over. Two of the hospital’s larger pharmacies have been made even bigger. The one serving the Specialist Outpatient Clinics now has a medication management service room for pharmacists to advise patients about the medicines they are taking, while the pharmacy at Block 4 is roomier.

The next phase of the makeover will be sprucing up the wards. To make sure that bed space is not lost during renovation, patients will be moved to three levels of “transit” wards at Block 6.

These three floors used to be the offices of the hospital’s more than 1,000 doctors, who have been given space at Academia, a new 13-storey twin-tower building that houses SGH’s pathology services as well as SingHealth research laboratories and education and training facilities.

Work on the wards has begun, and is expected to be completed within the next few years.