

News Release Dated 21st January 2008

Beacon Medical Group submit Planning Application for Women's, Children's and Maternity Hospital

Beacon Medical Group (BMG), today 21st January 2008, announced that it has applied for planning permission to build a Women's, Children's and Maternity Hospital adjacent to the existing Beacon Hospital.

Total investment in the hospital will amount to approximately €160m. Further to planning permission being received, the construction phase will last 24-30 months.

The facility will be privately operated but may be accessed by both publicly and privately insured patients. It will be connected to the full service Beacon Hospital, thereby benefiting from the additional acute, diagnostic and consulting facilities that this hospital offers. The facility will mirror the case-mix of care currently offered by the three existing maternity hospitals.

The hospital will have capacity for up to 3,000 deliveries per annum. Routine and high risk services will be provided, with advanced fetal medicine (diagnostics and therapeutics).

The hospital will provide 120 ensuite, inpatient rooms with the following clinical uses: pediatrics (including pediatric ICU, NICU, SCBU and wards), operating theatres, obstetric theatres, delivery wards and suites, gynecological wards, anti and post-natal wards, consultant suites, day procedure suites, staff training area with clinical and non-clinical support areas. It will have a total gross floor area of 15,096 sq m.

The hospital will directly employ over 450 staff with additional indirect employment of approximately 650.

Obstetric services will include 6 delivery suites, with 2 dedicated obstetric theatres (emergency and elective CS), 34 postnatal beds, 12 antenatal beds and 10 family suites.

Gynaecologic services will include 2 dedicated gynaecologic theatres, with 14 inpatient beds and 8 day-beds, gynaecologic oncology, assisted reproduction and urogynaecology. There is currently a chronic shortage of gynaecology beds in the existing hospitals.

Paediatric Services will include the full range of speciality services with 2 dedicated paediatric theatres, SBCU, 44 inpatient beds, 14 day beds, a 10 bed neonatal intensive care unit and an 8 bed paediatric intensive care unit.

There will be a full service neonatal intensive care unit with 24 hour obstetrician and anaesthesia coverage. Full time obstetrician-gynaecologists in Beacon will be complemented by part-time consultants from other hospitals.

Cardio-thoracic surgeon Professor Mark Redmond, Medical Director of BMG said ‘we in BMG are delighted with this opportunity to deliver outstanding healthcare to women and children in our proposed state-of-the-art facility. The hospital will provide the most up to date international standard equipment and expertise to ensure the maximum number of patients, both private and public, can benefit from the most outstanding health care available anywhere in the world’.

Notes to Editors

Background to Womens’ and Childrens’ healthcare services

- There are only 15-20 private postnatal beds in each Dublin Maternity hospital
- There is limited NICU capacity and difficulties securing space for premature / sick infants
- The national paediatric hospital is unlikely to be completed within the next 5-7 years
- Maternity Review commissioned by HSE and conducted by KPMG due to be published soon

Q&A

Why would expectant mothers want to attend Beacon rather than any other hospital? Superior facilities and breadth of services

Who is likely to attend? Profile?

Both public and private patients subject to establishment of Service Level Agreement with HSE

Mount Carmel provides a private maternity service - however mothers still insist on attending the Coombe etc despite the conditions - why is this? How will yours be different? How will you convince mothers to attend Beacon?

See Q1. Only services we will not offer will be Quadernal (babies weighing <750gms or <26 weeks)

When you say children's hospital - what age groups are you talking about?

All ages

What paed services will be provided?

Full service

Will tertiary care be provided? - will there be long-stay patients?

Yes, where necessary

Will there be a paed A&E?

TBC

Is this facility going to cater exclusively for the well-heeled? - Will there be any scope for public patients to attend?

Yes subject to negotiating a SLA with the HSE

Paed specialists would say that adult diagnostics and labs etc are not suitable for children. Will Beacon have dedicated paed medical support services?

Yes

Is this venture a vote of no confidence in the new national children's hospital model? What is your opinion on this model and the proposed location?

It is not the intention to compete with, or replace the NCH. We are simply hoping to improve accessibility to excellent healthcare for everyone. There is no other independent paediatric hospital in the country

About Beacon Medical Group

Beacon Medical Group (BMG) (www.beaconmedicalgroup.ie) is a healthcare company founded by cardi-thoracic surgeon Professor Mark Redmond and his partners Michael Cullen and Paddy Shovlin. BMG built and owns the Beacon Medical Campus which includes Beacon Hospital, Beacon Renal, Beacon Consultants Clinic and Concourse, Beacon Dermatology and the planned Women's, Children's and Maternity Hospital.

Prof J Mark Redmond, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., Medical Director, Beacon Medical Group

Prof J Mark Redmond is a one of the leading cardiothoracic surgeons in the country. Mark completed nine years of general surgery and cardiothoracic training in the prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital Baltimore, Maryland, USA as well as a further 3 years on faculty. He held a number of prominent positions, including Director of Paediatric Heart and Lung Transplant, Co-Director of the Albert Broccoli Centre for Aortic Diseases, and was Director of The Cardiac Research Laboratories at Johns Hopkins.

He returned to Ireland in 2000 and is currently a consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin, The Mater Misericordiae Hospital and The Mater Private Hospital. He remains an active member of the full time surgical faculty at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Professor Redmond is a regular lecturer at medical conferences worldwide.

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