

Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice: A Pillar of Rapidly Expanding Healthcare

Since its debut in November 2021, Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice (SMH-Venice) has become a vital health resource for the booming population of south Sarasota County. Situated at the corner of Laurel and Pinebrook roads near I-75, the 65-acre campus was built with future growth in mind—a strategic decision that proved necessary when the facility reached near-capacity almost immediately.

A Resilient, Modern Facility The campus features a five-story hospital and a two-story, 60,000-square-foot medical office center. Built to withstand extreme weather, the hospital is fully hurricane-hardened and supported by a dedicated Central Energy Center for emergency power. Incorporating critical lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility's ventilation system allows the entire Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to be converted to a negative-pressure environment if a pandemic response is required.

Aggressive Expansion to Meet Local Needs To keep pace with regional growth, the hospital has undergone significant expansions shortly after its opening:

- **Increased Capacity:** With the addition of a third patient tower, the hospital grew from its original 110 suites to a total of 212 private rooms.
- **Enhanced Emergency Care:** A \$90 million investment expanded the Emergency Care Center from 28 beds to 61 exam rooms. This upgrade also introduced advanced imaging technology, including a third CT scanner and dual resuscitation suites.
- **Advanced Specializations:** In mid-2024, the board greenlit nearly \$60 million in combined upgrades for radiology, MRI services, and a dedicated cardiac electrophysiology department to treat complex heart rhythms.

Broad Clinical Services SMH-Venice provides a comprehensive range of medical and surgical services integrated into the larger Sarasota Memorial Health Care System:

- **Cardiology & Stroke:** The site operates a specialized Cardiac Care Unit and serves as a primary hub for emergency stroke intervention.
- **Obstetrics:** The Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Postpartum (LDRP) unit offers 10 private suites, most featuring specialized tubs for labor support.
- **Surgical Excellence:** The hospital utilizes eight operating rooms equipped for robotic-assisted surgery, alongside two suites dedicated to maternity care.
- **Orthopedic Distinction:** The facility holds an Advanced Hip & Knee Replacement certification from DNV, reflecting its high standard of orthopedic care.

Vision for the Future Growth is expected to continue through the end of the decade, including a planned \$82.5 million Rehabilitation Pavilion set for 2028. Furthermore, the health system is

extending its reach with a new hospital in North Port and a dedicated medical campus in Wellen Park.

As a massive economic contributor, the hospital generated over \$176 million in community impact during its first year alone. As part of the Sarasota Memorial Health Care System—which has earned a spot on *Newsweek*'s "World's Best Hospitals" list for six years running—SMH-Venice remains a benchmark for quality care in Southwest Florida.

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