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Lee Health Expands OB Services with New and Renovated Patient Rooms
Services to be consolidated from Gulf Coast Medical Center to HealthPark Medical Center

(Fort Myers, Fla. – October 16, 2018) --- Lee Health is announcing an expansion of obstetrical services and new and renovated OB rooms at HealthPark Medical Center. The health system will now feature 107 OB beds, and all of the newly renovated rooms at HPMC will be fully private with family sleep capabilities. This transition will create 10 additional beds across the health system and as of March 1, 2019, the obstetrical service line currently offered at Gulf Coast Medical Center will be transferred to HealthPark.

"We are excited to expand our OB services to expecting mothers and their families. With renovated rooms and close proximity to Golisano Children's Hospital, OB patients will receive the highest level health care and in a comfortable environment for moms and their families. This has been part of our long-term plan since opening Golisano's new building last year, and we look forward to continuing to meet our region's health care needs," said Scott Kashman, Chief Acute Care Officer.

Expansion of the HealthPark Medical Center Obstetrics Unit is underway in space vacated last year by pediatric services now at home in the new Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. Currently, HealthPark Medical Center has 42 licensed OB beds, and Gulf Coast Medical Center has 32 licensed OB beds. Ten additional OB beds will be added during the construction phase of the project, bringing the total number of OB beds at HealthPark Medical Center to 84.

In addition to adding more beds, this move helps meet several other goals of Lee Health's OB service line. The OB Emergency Department and OB triage located in HealthPark's emergency department is scheduled to be expanded from three to seven beds, and the renovated delivery rooms are located near the unit's operating suites should they be needed. With the unit's adjacent location to Golisano Children's Hospital, there is easy access to the area's only Level II and Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for high-risk pregnancies. HealthPark also offers 24/7 OB hospitalist coverage.

Over the past few years, the number of births at Gulf Coast Medical Center has been decreasing, while the number at HealthPark Medical Center has been increasing. In fiscal year 2015, HealthPark Medical Center had 3,135 births while Gulf Coast Medical Center had 1, 721 births. Last fiscal year (2018), HealthPark Medical Center recorded 3,421 births, while Gulf Coast Medical Center dropped to 1,335.

Susan Ryckman, RN, MSN, Vice President of Patient Care Services, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, has accepted additional leadership responsibilities to include Obstetrics Services across the Lee Health system. Susan DiMatteo, MSN, RNC-OB is leading operations of the two obstetrics units at HealthPark Medical Center and Gulf Coast Medical Center as nursing director and will continue at HealthPark Medical Center after the migration of services. Nancy Travis, RN, BS, MSN, interim Vice President of Patient Care Services at Cape Coral Hospital, will continue as nursing director for the 23-bed obstetrics unit at Cape Coral Hospital, in addition to duties as interim Vice President of Patient Care Services for the entire hospital

"Lee Health focuses on providing the highest possible level of care and patient safety," says Ryckman. "HealthPark Medical Center is staffed 24/7 by obstetrics hospitalists, dedicated anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists, who provide the highest level of care for mothers during delivery. Additionally, if specialized care is required for newborns, the Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Golisano Children's Hospital is conveniently located adjacent to the OB unit, just down a hallway."

In September, HealthPark Medical Center was designated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital by Baby-Friendly, USA, Inc., the authority for the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI). BFHI is a global program sponsored by The World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an optimal level of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies

In 2017, Lee Heath was recognized by the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative and received the inaugural John Curran Quality Improvement Award for reducing morbidity, which includes mortality and complications. HealthPark Medical Center is home to the region's only state-designated Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, which has achieved the No. 1 ranking several years in a row in the state of Florida based on the outcomes of premature infants.

For more information about Lee Health's OB service line, visit our website at: http://www.leehealth.org/obstetrics-gynecology/index.asp.

About Lee Health

Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.