



HMC is renovating its healthcare facilities

The Hague – Haaglanden Medical Centre (HMC) will be renovating its locations in the years ahead. This is required in order to provide the patients of today and tomorrow with the best possible care. An accommodation plan drawn up for this purpose specifies which facilities are required in order to be prepared for the future. The plan is a proposed decision by the board of directors of HMC and has been submitted to various representatives of employees and patients for advice. 'This plan is in line with developments in healthcare, takes a growing and ageing region into account and fits in with our budget', says HMC board chairman Ingrid Wolf. 'Together with our care partners, we are making sensible choices and will continue to work with love and courage for each patient in the future.'

The accommodation plan specifies how HMC is renovating its three hospital locations: HMC Antoniushove, HMC Bronovo and HMC Westeinde. The starting point remains that HMC will work towards two main locations in the long term: HMC Antoniushove and HMC Westeinde. Providing future-proof care means having the courage to make choices. 'Just like any other hospital, we face major challenges', says Wolf. 'Rising healthcare costs, agreements with the government stating that it will not be allocating more money for hospital healthcare, an ever rising number of vacancies for healthcare employees and a region that is growing and ageing.' Facilities for acute and complex care, such as interventions for brain haemorrhages, are expensive and require highly specialised staff who must be available 24 hours a day. 'For this reason, we are concentrating our highly complex and urgent care at HMC Westeinde and treating cancer patients at HMC Antoniushove. This allows us to bring together expertise, work in an innovative and efficient way and offer the best possible quality.'

From hospital to home

HMC offers care at various locations in the Haaglanden region: at the hospital, at the general medical practice, in the neighbourhoods and at home. Each location plays its own role in meeting the future demand for healthcare. 'We provide care close to the patient if possible, and at the hospital if necessary', says Sharita Ramautar, chairman of the HMC medical staff. 'Increasingly, we can already be found outside the walls of the hospital. Nurses visit our patients in the neighbourhoods, specialists listen in on GP consultations, dialysis care takes place at the patient's home and we monitor the heart rate and blood pressure of pregnant women remotely. As a result, patients need to come to the hospital less and less often.'

HMC Westeinde: from intensive care to nursing wards

The demand for highly complex and acute care is expected to continue to grow. HMC is therefore upgrading and expanding its intensive care facilities at HMC Westeinde, as well as building additional operating rooms and modernising the nursing wards.

Our HMC Trauma Centre and HMC Neuro Centre enjoy a particularly good reputation, and patients from all over the country come to us as a result, says Ramautar. 'Now, we are investing in this care to ensure that it also remains available to the people in our region – so that, when resident in the Haaglanden region suffers a major road accident or a stroke, they will receive the best help as quickly and as close to home as possible.' Wolf: 'We also ensure a professional working environment in which our employees enjoy working together. In addition, we are expanding our parking facilities. Together with the municipality of The Hague, we are working to achieve better accessibility.'

HMC Bronovo will be retained for healthcare

Until at least 2030, HMC Bronovo will remain open as a weekday hospital, as is currently the case. HMC will also remain active in the Benoordenhout and Scheveningen districts after 2030. HMC Bronovo is home to facilities for care and operations that can be planned well in advance. This involves treatments and operations that are not urgent. Wolf: 'Patients will still be able to visit their trusted doctor at HMC Bronovo for years to come. For a pregnancy check-up, a blood sample, for examination or for knee or hip surgery, for example.'

Together with residents and care partners, such as general practitioners, physiotherapists, nursing home and home care organisations, HMC has developed a plan for providing innovative care at HMC Bronovo that suits the wishes of patients. For example, there is a need for beds where older people or people who are suffering from chronic illness can stay for a short time. Here, they will receive care under the auspices of a general practitioner or a specialist in geriatric medicine. Wolf: 'Both care providers and residents have jointly outlined the basis of this new range of care. All the parties involved considered the care needs of vulnerable elderly people and patients with chronic illnesses to

be very important. For this reason, special attention is being paid to this and we are working with the municipality of The Hague, welfare organisations and organisations for the elderly to further develop these aspects.'

HMC Antoniushove: extra facilities for plannable care

At HMC Antoniushove, we treat cancer patients and provide facilities for care that can be planned well in advance. To this end, we are expanding the operating theatres and creating more facilities for outpatient treatment. When the expansions in HMC Westeinde and HMC Antoniushove have been completed, we will move all treatments for which an operating room is required or for which patients need to stay overnight in the hospital from HMC Bronovo to HMC Antoniushove and HMC Westeinde.

Accommodation plan

The accommodation plan is based on the hospital's strategic direction and specifies the care ambitions. This plan is the result of an intensive and careful process. Thanks to the input of HMC staff, representatives of patients and care partners, it provides a good basis for our ambitions. 'Renovating the accommodation is no easy matter', says Wolf. 'We certainly didn't rush into things.' Together with local councillors, health insurers and representatives of neighbourhood associations, among others, HMC has independently and carefully examined the future demand for care in the Haaglanden region. 'We concluded that the region is growing, with an ageing population, and that this will increase the demand for care. Not only for the hospitals, but also for other healthcare organisations. We have included this shared vision of the future in our plans. An accommodation plan naturally includes the buildings and the building blocks, but also focuses much more on the care that we offer. Also, we will be taking a significant step towards achieving our sustainability ambitions. We will offer more care on fewer square metres, so that HMC can contribute to its social mission, which is to manage the rising costs of care and provide HMC patients with the best medical specialist care. Both now and in the future.'

Planning

The plan is a proposed decision by the board of directors of HMC. It has been submitted to various representatives of employees and patients for advice. At the same time, HMC is entering into discussions with health insurers and banks in order to arrange the necessary budget for the major renovation of its premises. After approval by the supervisory board in July, the board of directors will make a final decision on the plans.

The first construction activities at HMC will start in 2023. The HMC construction programme runs until 2035. We will evaluate the first phase of this project in 2026. The renovation of the buildings is being planned in such a way as to minimise inconvenience for patients, visitors and staff. 'We are proud of having put together such a major plan', says Wolf. 'At HMC, we have been talking about the much-needed renovation of our buildings for quite some time. This plan will allow us to wrap up the discussion and actually get started!'

Note for the editors, not for publication:

For more information, contact the communication department: pers@haaglandenmc.nl