



Renovating the Internal Medicine Building

Current Conditions: Overcrowded and Rundown

One of the top priorities in the current process of upgrading and modernizing the Galilee Medical Center is the renovation of the antiquated Internal Medicine Building, which dates from 1980. The wards in this building currently have an average occupancy rate of 98%, sometimes climbing as high as 130%. Patients suffer from a lack of privacy and comfort, affecting not just their basic human dignity but also their recovery. The cramped conditions make it difficult to perform medical procedures, and also increase the risks of infection. Overall, the current facilities affect GMC's ability to comply with Israeli and international health standards.

Today, the building's eight wards – six internal medicine, one neurology, and one nephrology – comprise 240 beds. In 2021, over 21,000 patients were admitted to these wards, accounting for a total of 90,000 hospitalization days per year. Half of the rooms have four beds and half have two beds, with a single toilet and shower located in the hallway and shared by six patients. Due to the shortage of beds,





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The Internal Medicine wards are crowded and patients lack privacy



Due to the shortage of beds, some of the wards' public spaces are regularly used as makeshift solutions to accommodate more patients

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Another acute problem in these wards is that there is insufficient space for visitors both at the patients' bedside and in communal areas. Moreover, the décor is drab and outdated, and the overall patient experience is depressing.

The Plan: Renovating the Wards

The current condition of GMC's Internal Medicine wards is clearly unsustainable, especially since studies have shown that a hospital's physical environment impacts the patients' health and recovery.

Together with Prof. Masad Barhum, GMC's general director, Friends of Galilee Medical Center has made renovating the Internal Medicine Building a top priority.

The planned renovation will increase the number of beds as well as upgrade and modernize the hospital rooms. Patients will enjoy more privacy and an overall more pleasant environment. The plan also allocates space for visiting family members and friends. The new wards will be designed to promote healing and improve treatment outcomes.

The building will be fitted with new environmentally friendly electricity, gas and air-conditioning systems and will employ "green" materials. This will reduce GMC's energy and water expenditure, and lessen its impact on the environment.

Because of the high costs and in order to minimize disruption during this massive project, the four floors will be renovated one at a time, in four phases.



A nurses' station in need of urgent renovation



Galilee Medical Center



Budget

The overall budget for renovating the building is \$39.2 million.

Phase	Project	Estimated Budget
1	Renovation of the 3 rd floor	\$7M*
	New infrastructure for the whole building: structural modifications and fortification, electric station, A/C	\$6M
	Total Phase 1	\$13M
2	Renovation of the 1 st floor	\$7M*
3	Renovation of the 2 nd floor	\$7M*
4	Renovation of the 4 th floor + bolstering the structure	\$7M*
	Total construction	\$34M
	Planning and contracting	\$3.7M
	New furniture, reception stations, computer equipment, etc.	\$1.5M
	Total project budget	\$39.2M

*The budget for renovating each floor consists of 45% construction costs and 55% the cost of new electricity, gas and A/C systems.

A total of \$10.2M has already been raised for this project: half from the Helmsley Charitable Trust and half as matching funds from the Ministry of Health.

Galilee Medical Center seeks to raise the remaining \$29M that is required for executing this project.



American Friends of Galilee Medical Center

For more information about Galilee Medical Center and to donate, please contact: Avrum Lapin, Director, **American Friends of Galilee Medical Center**. Tel: (215) 885-1550, POB 789856, Philadelphia PA 19178-9856, Email: alapin@thelapingroup.com, www.afgmc.org

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