TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019:

I keep hearing that the new regional medical center will not include pediatric services. Is this true?

No, this is not true.

Our health system has always cared for the children in our community and their families – through our Children’s Health Center in Utica and East Utica Medical Group, our relationships with local pediatricians, and our existing pediatric inpatient, surgical and emergency care services. That’s why the new Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) Regional Medical Center includes eight pediatric beds on the eighth floor of the new building. We will continue to fulfill our commitment to caring for children locally whenever possible. Additionally, we remain committed to providing a Level II Special Care Nursery for newborns that need a higher level of care.

MVHS is also very fortunate to be a member of the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals, which helps us raise funds for vital programs, services, equipment and education that saves and improves the lives of local children each year. In fact, the generous local contributions to CMN have provided the funding for a child life specialist who helps infants, children, youth and families cope with the stress and uncertainty of illness and injury and treatment. Our membership as a CMN hospital is expected to continue and strengthen in the future.

Planning for the new regional medical center has progressed very well as we prepare for this fall’s groundbreaking. Here’s a floor-by-floor listing of the location for services:

- First floor – Emergency Services, Trauma Services, Radiology and Clinical Laboratory Services
- Second floor – Surgical Innovation Center (operating rooms), cardiac catheterization and interventions, electrophysiology labs, Interventional Radiology and Endoscopy
- Third floor – Critical and Intensive Care
- Fourth floor – Maternity and Special Care Nursery
- Fifth floor – Intermediate Care
- Sixth Floor – Medical/Surgical Services*
- Seventh Floor – Medical/Surgical Services*
- Eighth Floor – Pediatrics and Medical/Surgical Services*
- Ninth Floor – Behavioral Health

*NOTE: The services on each Medical/Surgical Services floor, such as orthopedic care, heart services and specific surgical specialties, will be further defined as the building project progresses.

The new MVHS Regional Medical Center is still on schedule for groundbreaking this fall.