



# A Patient's Handbook

201 Georgian Drive | Barrie, ON | L4M 6M2 | 705 728-9802 | [RVH.on.ca](http://RVH.on.ca)





## Meet Gail Hunt

I was both thrilled and humbled to join TEAM RVH as your new president and CEO in July, 2022.

To lead such a world-class organization is incredibly inspiring and a tremendous privilege.

There were many factors that drew me to RVH:

- its reputation for excellence
- patient focus
- commitment to safety
- strongly rooted values
- and forward-thinking culture
- RVH is known as a dynamic and innovative regional centre, always striving for excellence and building an exciting future to meet the healthcare needs of Simcoe Muskoka.

I'm excited to be part of that future.

As I get to know the organization, you may wonder about my priorities and leadership style.

First – I believe diverse perspectives drive innovative thinking. Different experiences, ideas and perceptions create an incubator of ideas from which we land on the best solutions.

Second, I am committed to authentically engaging and empowering teams. You are the experts, and I encourage you to come up with new ideas and try new things to make care better, safer and more accessible.

And third, I strongly believe that in our drive for progress and expansion, we must never lose the respect, kindness and compassion that TEAM RVH is known for.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line.

Gail Hunt  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Please note: We are constantly changing to meet your needs. Information presented here may be subject to change.





## About RVH

### Vision

Make each life better. Together.

### Our Mission

Exceptional care is our passion. People are our inspiration.  
Safety is our promise.

### Values

RVH is built on our values – deeply held beliefs which guide our every action.

- Work Together
- Respect All
- Think Big
- Own It
- Care



# The patient experience

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Patients are at the centre of everything we do at RVH and our MY CARE philosophy puts patients and their families first. Always. Everyday. Without exception.

We are committed to supporting diversity and creating an inclusive, barrier-free environment. As a regional health centre, RVH serves a multitude of communities within our region, each with its own unique needs. To better serve those communities we strive for health equity and constant self-reflection to ensure our patients and families receive the safest, highest-quality care that they deserve, and that our health centre is a safe and welcoming place of healing and comfort for everyone.

To help achieve this goal you can expect:

- Every employee, physician and volunteer you encounter will introduce themselves by name and tell you about their experience, what they will be doing for your care and how long it will take
- At the end of a shift your care team may gather at your bedside to discuss important information about your treatment, medication and condition. You can be involved in this conversation at whatever level you choose
- Large whiteboards in every patient room display information about your care, such as your estimated date for discharge, pain management plans, upcoming tests or procedures, as well as your first name. This way you, your family, and the team members involved in your care, have access to this important information. You can ask that this information not be displayed on the whiteboard if you prefer
- Nurses will also check in on you regularly to ask some key questions and see if there is anything you need
- You can also expect to meet the unit leader during your stay. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, share compliments or discuss concerns directly with your unit's leader. This information is shared with the teams providing your care and helps us to improve your experience at our health centre

## We want to hear from you

RVH is committed to providing high quality, patient-focused care. In order to do this, we continuously seek feedback from our patients and their families. There are many ways you can tell us about your experience, including:

**Patient Experience Survey:** Surveys are administered to a random selection of patients after they have returned home from an Emergency department visit or an overnight stay in hospital.

These surveys are anonymous, and we use the information gathered from them to identify what RVH is doing well and what we can do to improve the care we provide. We appreciate all feedback provided to us and encourage you to complete the survey if you receive it.

## Compliments and concerns

We appreciate learning about your positive experiences so we can pass your feedback along to the staff, physicians and volunteers. You can recognize members of your care team in several ways:

- Complete an electronic thank you card on the bedside entertainment system
- Send an email through the RVH website
- If you have concerns about your care or if you have suggestions to improve service, we would also appreciate hearing from you through the following options:
- Discuss it with a staff member
- If you feel your concern is not resolved, ask to speak with the department's Resource Nurse or Supervisor/Manager
- Contact the Patient and Family Experience Office
- Contact the President and CEO through the dedicated patient line at extension 41050

## Patient and Family Experience Office

The Patient and Family Experience Office is here to assist you with questions or concerns about your care at RVH. Whether you have a concern, a suggestion or a compliment, we'd like to hear your feedback.

While in hospital, we encourage you to direct immediate inquiries or concerns to your care team (staff nurse or resource nurse on your unit or outpatient care area), or take the matter up with the manager or the attending physician. If you don't feel satisfied after this, please feel free to contact the Patient Relations Coordinators for help.

When to contact us

- When you have questions or would like information about services at RVH
- When you want to give us your ideas or suggestions
- When you have compliments that you would like to forward related to your care at RVH
- When you have concerns, or grievances, about services or interactions with RVH staff or physicians

We work with physicians and administration in order to improve your experience at RVH. Quality and patient safety are strategic priorities for RVH. We are concerned about our patients and embrace any opportunity to improve the care we provide.

You can contact the Patient and Family Experience Office at 705-728-9090 ext. 44510 or via email at [patientexperience@rvh.on.ca](mailto:patientexperience@rvh.on.ca)

If you prefer, you may also submit your request, compliment or concern in writing via email or a letter addressed to:

Patient and Family Experience Office

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre 201 Georgian Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6M2

## Protecting your privacy

When you receive care at RVH, we collect and store personal information about you, such as your name, date of birth, address, health history, records of your visit and the care you received. RVH collects this information to:

- Provide you with appropriate care
- Maintain a record of your care
- Conduct activities which support patient care
- Improve the quality of hospital services
- Support research and educational programs
- Comply with legal and regulatory requirements
- Obtain funding for your treatment and care (i.e. OHIP, WSIB)
- 

RVH takes all reasonable steps to ensure your information is treated confidentially and is only used for the purposes it was collected. This may require that we share your personal health information with:

Your next of kin or a legal representative of your choosing

- Other healthcare providers in your care team
- Health regulatory agencies
- Public authorities (i.e. the local health unit)
- 

For more information about RVH's privacy protection practices, or if you have any questions about how we use your personal health information, please contact the Privacy Office at: 705-728-9090 ext. 42537 [privacy@rvh.on.ca](mailto:privacy@rvh.on.ca)

You may also contact the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario directly if you think your privacy has been breached. The Commissioner can be reached as follows:



## Patient rights & responsibilities

At RVH, patients are at the centre of everything we do. Your patient rights and responsibilities are foundational to the caring partnership you share with your RVH healthcare team.

Patients have the right to:

- Receive safe, high quality patient care
- Be treated in a considerate, respectful manner regardless of race, culture, religion, sex, age, mental or physical ability, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, diagnosis, or legal status
- Receive complete and clear information about diagnosis, treatment and prognosis
- Express concern about the care or treatment received
- Maintain independence and make decisions about your care, unless you are unable, in which case information will be given to a guardian, attorney or substitute decision-maker
- As a capable patient, refuse treatment and be informed of the potential health risks of your decision
- Know the names and roles of your healthcare team
- Be informed of opportunities to participate in research
- Have your privacy protected and your personal information and health records kept confidential
- Have access to your health record
- Be informed of any financial obligations that will be incurred as a result of your care
- Ask members of your care team if they have washed their hands
- Behave in a respectful way toward your healthcare team
- Treat others in a considerate, respectful manner regardless of race, culture, religion, sex, age, mental or physical ability, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, diagnosis, or legal status
- Contribute actively to your healthcare and healthcare decisions to the extent you are able
- Participate in your treatment and rehabilitation at the level you choose
- Make informed choices about your participation in research and communicate your preferences to the healthcare team
- Respect that your healthcare team must prioritize their activities in order of urgency
- Contribute to the quality of your care by providing an accurate health history, information about current prescriptions, treatments, and follow provider recommendations
- Bring your medication (in the original containers) and/or an accurate list of medications with you to RVH (including over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, supplements, vitamins, and diet pills)
- Respect other patients and their privacy and confidentiality
- Keep appointments or notify RVH when you are unable to keep your appointment
- Ensure all expenses not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or private insurance are paid for
- Comply and ask others to comply with RVH infection control and safety policies
- To view the Patient Declaration of Values for Ontario, please visit:  
[ontario.ca/patient-declaration-values-ontario](http://ontario.ca/patient-declaration-values-ontario)

## Visitor responsibilities

RVH is committed to providing safe, high quality care for patients and a positive experience for families. We count on visitors, as family members or friends, to assist us by:

- Respecting patients' right to privacy
- Observing RVH property, rules and regulations
- Being considerate of the rights of patients, as well as staff, physicians and volunteers by treating them courteously and with respect
- Not visiting RVH if they are not feeling well, or if they have an illness which could spread to our patients (if visitors are unsure, they should check with a healthcare provider)
- Not smoking or vaping on RVH property – it is a smoke-free environment

# Getting to RVH

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## Parking

Daily, weekly and monthly parking passes are available for purchase at all parking machines and the Parking Office. Also available are 5, 10 and 30 use HPASS options. These passes provide unlimited in and out privileges and are valid for one (1) year from time of purchase. The HPASS options are available for purchase only at the Parking Office. Rates and instructions are listed on all parking machines and brochures are available at the volunteer desks or at the Parking Office (Main visitor parking lot). For assistance, please contact 705-728-9090 ext. 44114 or email [rvhparking@rvh.on.ca](mailto:rvhparking@rvh.on.ca)

## Public transportation

There is a public transit bus stop located outside the health centre's Main entrance as well as by the lower staff parking lots. Please refer to the RVH Campus map below.

## Finding your way

See maps on pages 9 to 14.

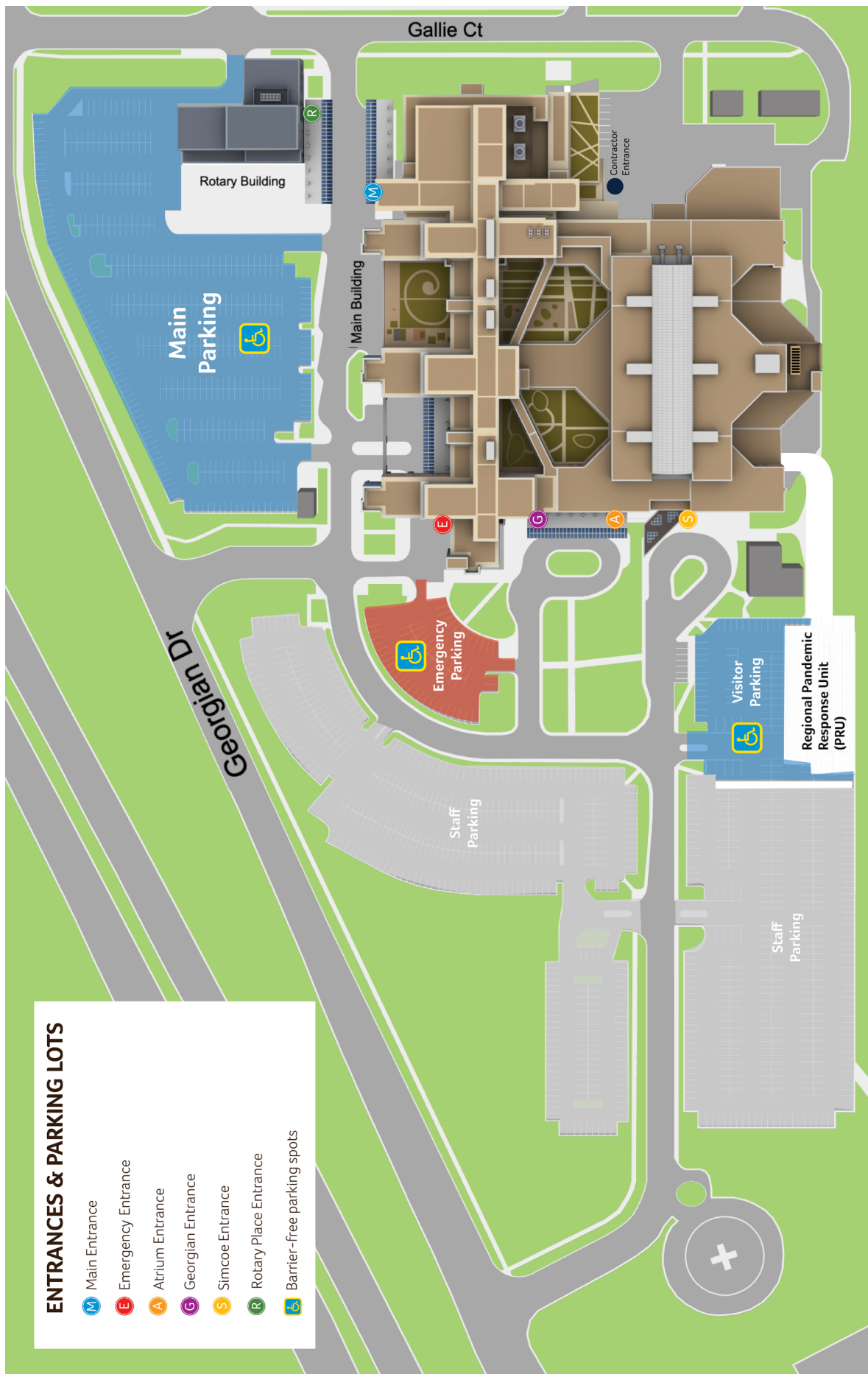
## Information desks

Volunteer-run information desks are located at the Main, Atrium and Simcoe entrances. Given that RVH is such a large health centre, volunteers at these desks can help direct you or your loved ones, as well as assist with providing wheelchairs if walking is difficult. The Main information desk closes at 3 p.m., after which time you can dial '0' for patient information. Wheelchairs are still available at each desk after hours as well.



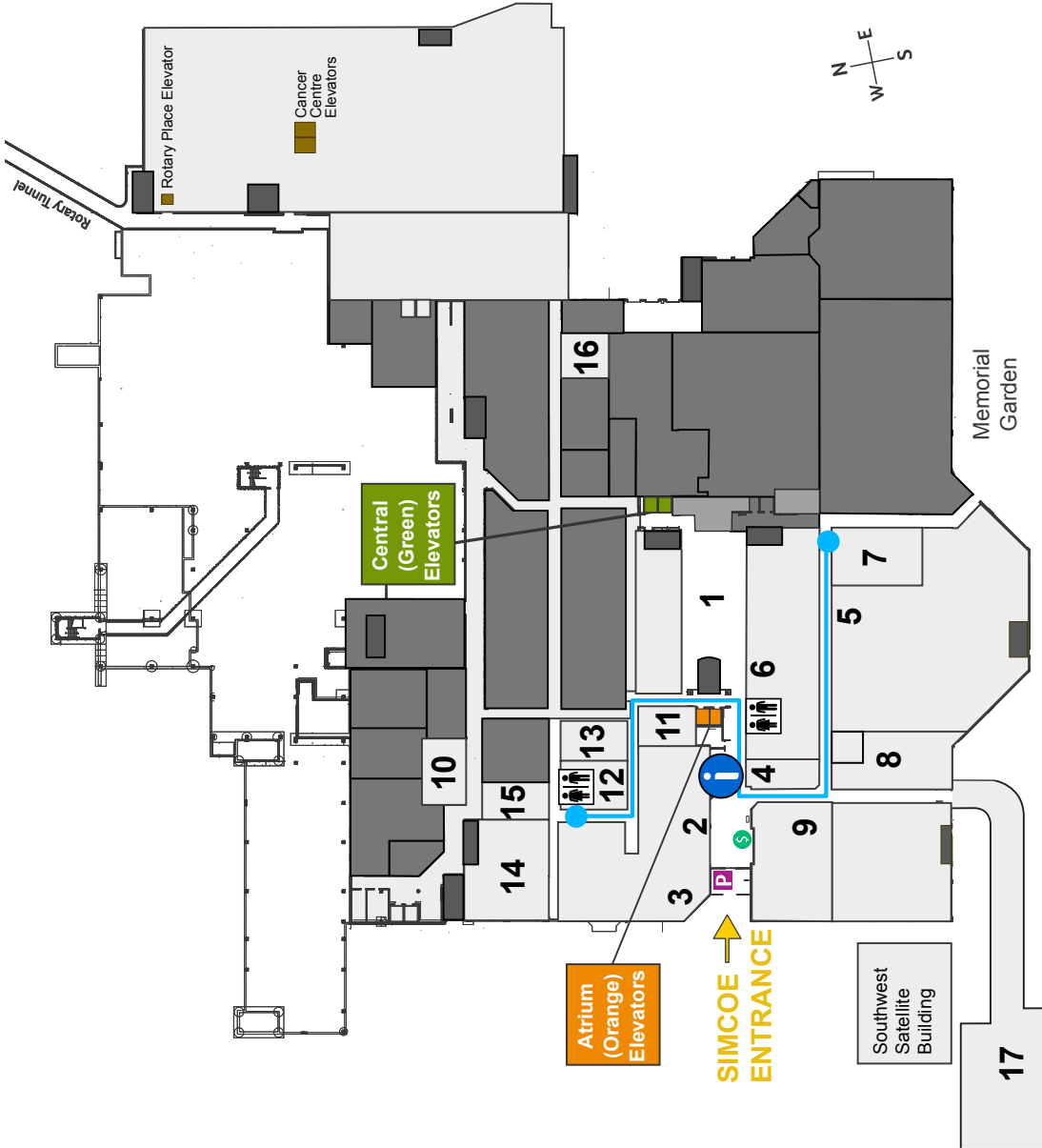








## Level 1










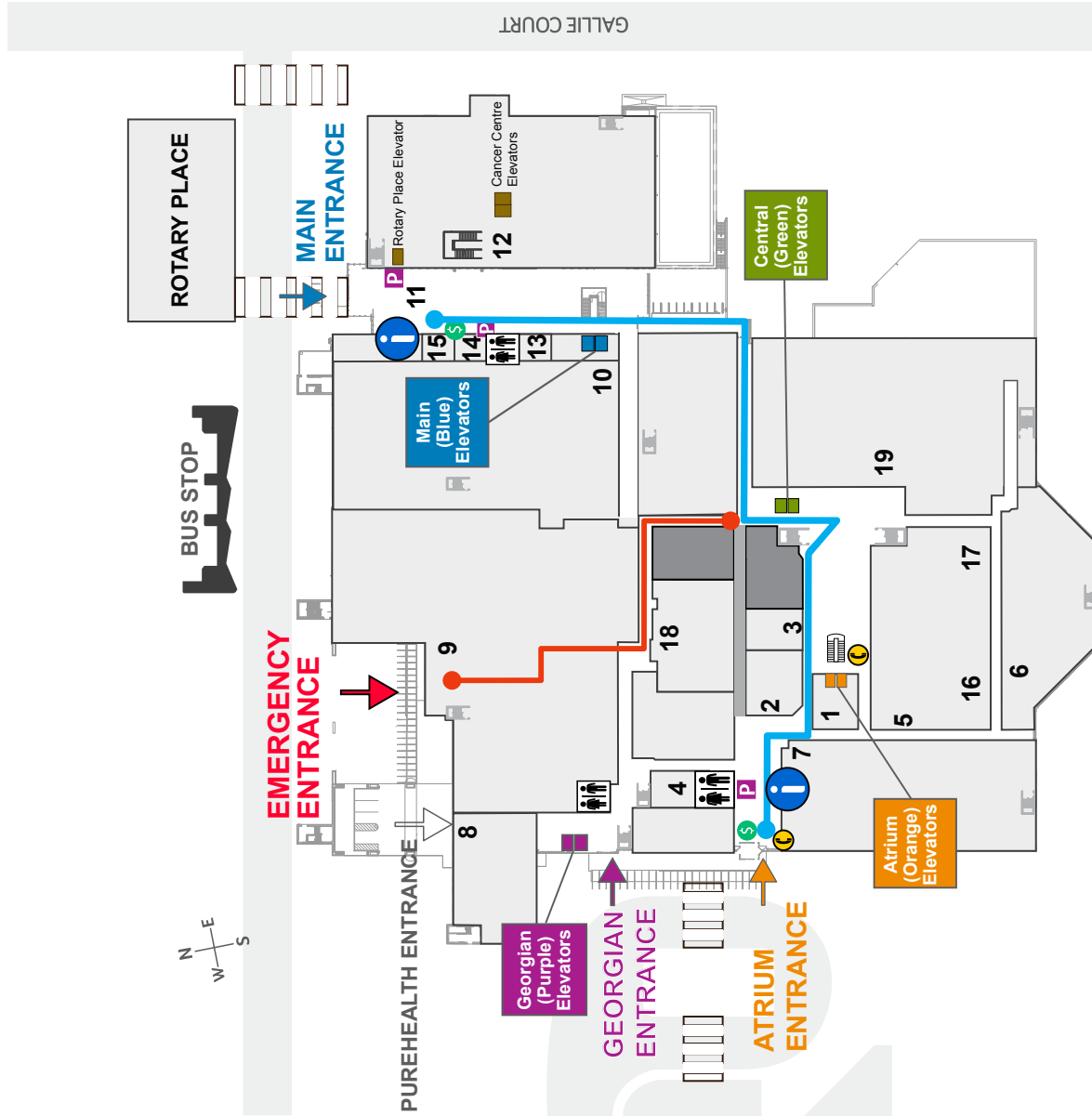
1	Food Court
2	Medicine Treatment Clinic (MTC) Adult Asthma, Adult Diabetes, Foot Clinic (Chiropody), Internal Medicine, Regional Falls Prevention, Urgent Geriatric, Stroke Prevention, Phlebotomy
3	In-Centre Dialysis
4	Simcoe Kiosk Registration
5	Rehabilitation Treatment Clinic
6	Cardio Respiratory Treatment Clinic
7	Breast Imaging
8	MTC Infusions Blood Transfusions, Iron Infusions, IVIC Infusions, Medication Infusions
9	Child & Youth Treatment Clinic and Audiology
10	Volunteer Resource Centre and Auxiliary Office
11	Spiritual Care Centre
12	Pre-Surgery Treatment Clinic
13	Fracture Treatment Clinic
14	Surgery Treatment Clinic (STC)
15	Specimen Collection
16	Morgue
17	Pandemic Response Unit

- Main "Navigation" Line
- Washroom
- Volunteer information desk
- ABM Banking Machine
- Parking pay station

## Level 2

1	Central Registration and Surgery Registration
2	Victoria's Gift Shop
3	Health Library
4	Locating
5	Surgery Preparation
6	Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
7	Laboratory
8	PureHealth Pharmacy
9	Emergency Department
10	Medical Imaging
11	Main Lobby
12	Cancer Centre
13	Café Royale
14	Cashier Office + Release of Information (ROI)
15	RVH Foundation Satellite Office
16	Endoscopy Recovery
17	Surgery Recovery
18	Surge 1
19	Operating Rooms

-  Main "Navigation" Line
-  Emergency "Navigation" Line
-  Washroom
-  Volunteer information desk
-  ABM Banking Machine
-  Parking pay station
-  TTY phone





## Level 3

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | Integrated Stroke and Rehabilitation Inpatient                      |
| <b>2</b> | Mental Health Outpatient + Child and Youth Mental Health Outpatient |
| <b>3</b> | Specialized Seniors Care Inpatient                                  |
| <b>4</b> | Child and Youth Mental Health Inpatient and Day Program             |
| <b>5</b> | Respiratory Inpatient   |
| <b>6</b> | Medicine Inpatient  |
| <b>7</b> | Cancer & Palliative Inpatient                                       |
| <b>8</b> | Adult Mental Health Inpatient                                       |



Washroom

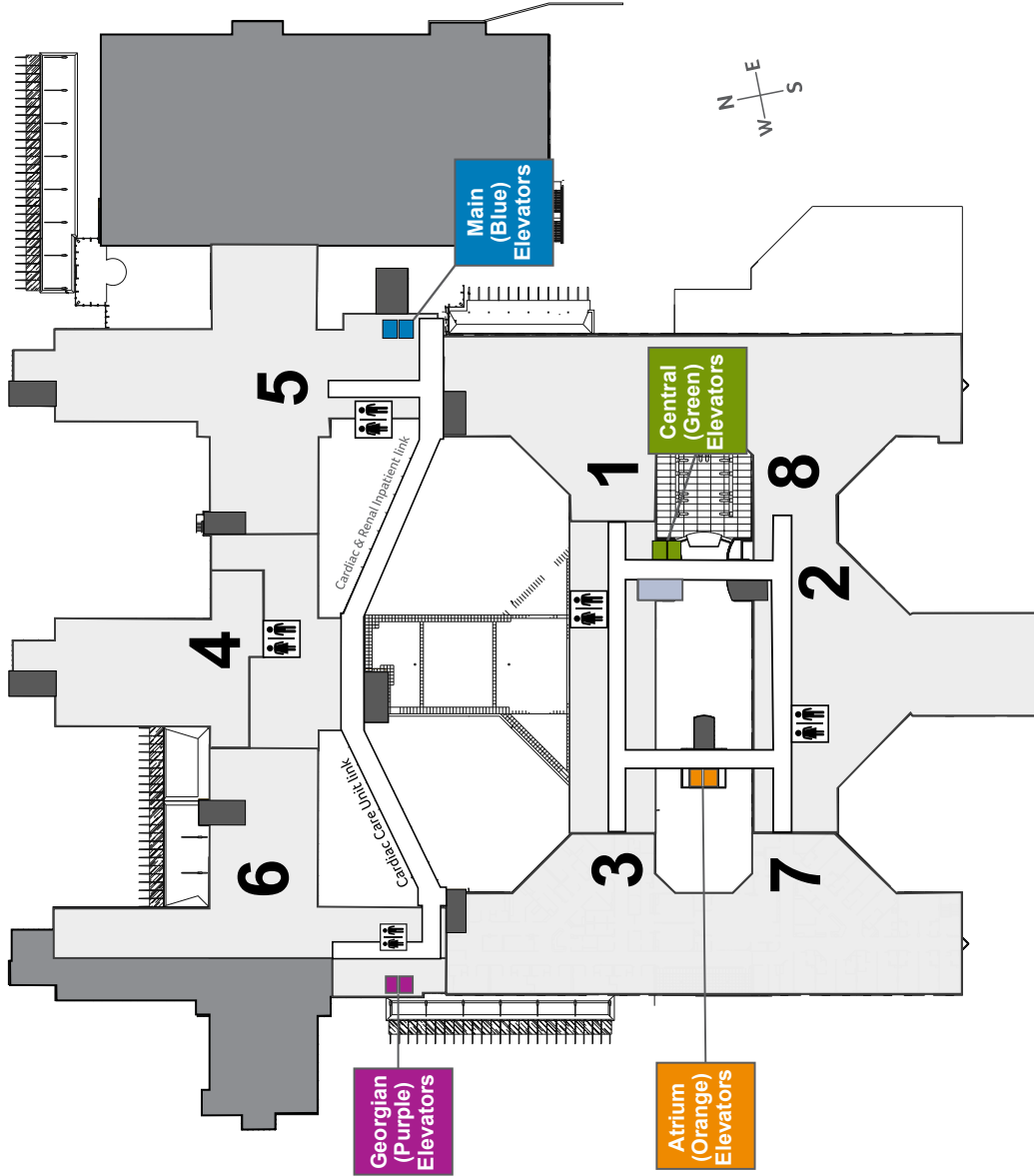


## Level 4

- 1** Surgery 2 Inpatient
- 2** Surgery 3 Inpatient
- 3** Birthing Unit
- 4** Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
- 5** Cardiac & Renal Inpatient
- 6** Cardiac Intervention Unit (CIU)
- 7** Obstetrics, Child & Youth Inpatient and Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- 8** Transitional Care Inpatient



Washroom



# Admission to RVH



## Patient registration

Depending on the treatment you are receiving at RVH, patients will need to register at either Central Registration (Level 2 - Atrium) or at Simcoe Registration (Level 1 – Simcoe Entrance). You will be told which registration desk to attend when your procedure is booked and when appointment reminder calls provided.

### **Surgery/Central Registration (Level 2)**

- Located near the Atrium entrance
- Hours of operation: 6 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Clinics registered here include:
- Surgery Services – Daycare and Admissions
- Fracture & Arthroplasty Treatment Clinics
- Pre-Surgery Clinic

### **Simcoe Entrance Registration (Level 1)**

- Hours of operation: 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Clinics registered here include:
  - Cardio Respiratory Treatment Clinic
  - Cardiovascular Rehabilitation
  - Medicine Treatment Clinic
  - Infusion Clinic
  - Rehabilitation Treatment Clinic & Rehab Day Program
  - Children & Youth Treatment Clinic
  - Multi-Care Kidney Clinic
  - Surgery Treatment Clinic
  - Specimen Collection/Lab
- During other hours, admissions are handled by the applicable area where treatment is received, or directly through Bed Allocation.



## What to expect at registration

You may register by a self-service kiosk or in person with one of our Registration Clerks. You will be asked to provide your name, date of birth, address, telephone numbers, emergency contact and family doctor's name. You will be asked for your OHIP card and/or other proof of insurance coverage.

At the time of admission, all patients are given an armband to wear with your identification details. Depending on the type of visit, you may also be given forms to fill out (such as the Inpatient/Outpatient Responsibility for Payment Form, Governing Law and Jurisdiction Form which is required for all non-residents of Canada, or an Anesthetic Questionnaire for surgery patients). Once you are registered, we will provide you with directions to your care area. Coloured lines on the floor, colour-coded elevators and signs will also help you to find your way.

To ensure we meet your needs, individual language, accessibility and spiritual services are available upon request.

## What to bring if you are staying in hospital:

- A list of all medications you are taking right now, including over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, vitamins and diet pills (see below for more detail)
- Valid Ontario health card
- Proof of additional health insurance coverage for preferred hospital accommodations (see Room Differential Rates below)
- Any patient instructions or booklets that your physician or surgeon provided to assist in your recovery
- Pajamas and other comfortable clothes, underwear, a robe and socks
- Shoes that fit well or non-skid slippers
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, razor, comb, hairbrush, scent-free hand lotion and other personal care items
- Eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids and cases, denture cups and supplies
- Walker or cane - if you require a mobility aid, please be sure to use it during your hospitalization to ensure your safety
- Diapers for children and babies and incontinent briefs and sanitary napkins for adults
- Favourite toys and blankets for children
- Personal electronic devices (i.e. laptop, cell phone, personal music player)

## Medications

Patients should bring a list (could be a pharmacy print out) or the containers of all medications you are taking right now, including over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, supplements, vitamins, and diet pills. Bringing in the original containers is helpful to ensure we have the most accurate medication record for you. The Ontario Drug Benefit offers some eligible patients the opportunity to have your pharmacist do a Meds Check for a fee. This is a very valuable assessment because it helps us do our best ensuring that all your usual medications that you take at home are correctly ordered while you are in hospital. If you have already had a Meds Check, please bring it with you as well.

## What not to bring

Please don't keep money or valuables, like jewelry, in your room. We suggest you keep no more than \$5 in your room and send valuables home with loved ones. Automated banking machines are located throughout the health centre. We also ask that you not bring:

- Electric personal care items other than a hair dryer or electric razor
- Cigarettes, any form of tobacco or cannabis products, pipes, cigars or e-cigarettes

## Allergies

It is very important that staff be made aware of any allergies you may have (i.e. food, medication, tape, plastic, metals, latex, etc.). During admission to the health centre, nursing staff will ask you about allergies.

RVH is a scent-sensitive facility meaning patients, visitors, staff, physicians, volunteers and students should not wear fragrances.

## Room differential rates (preferred accommodations)

As an inpatient, you are required to complete an Inpatient Responsibility for Payment form. If you would like to upgrade your room from a ward (three or four person) to semi-private (two person) or private (one person), you are required to choose that selection on your Inpatient Responsibility for Payment form. A semi-private room costs \$220 per day and a private room costs \$270 per day. Some medical insurance will cover some or all of the cost to upgrade your room and your insurance provider can confirm your coverage. Please understand that RVH is an extremely busy regional health centre and we may not always be able to accommodate your room request.

If you request and receive a room upgrade and provide insurance information, your claim will be directly submitted to your insurance company. If no insurance information is provided, you will be billed directly. Any rejections or balance from your insurance company will be billed to you directly. Please contact the Patient Accommodation Clerk at ext. 42612 if you have any questions related to preferred accommodations.

## Visiting hours

For up-to-date visitor hours, please visit our website: Patients and Visitors - Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre ([rvh.on.ca](http://rvh.on.ca))

## Smoke free property

RVH is committed to promoting a healthy community and safe work environment.

RVH's entire property and affiliated buildings are completely smoke- and vape-free. No tobacco or other smoke or inhaled products use is permitted on any RVH property, within buildings or in parking lots.

Want to quit smoking? RVH can help. All patients who identify as smokers during admission will be offered participation in a temporary smoking cessation program during their stay.





## Participating in your care

We are committed to ensuring you have the best possible experience while in our care and are informed and engaged in planning and decision-making.

We encourage you to ask questions of your care team to ensure you understand:

- Your treatment
- Your progress
- How long you will stay at RVH
- What kind of help you will need to return home

When it is time to go home, don't be afraid to ask questions related to:

- Whether you will need a prescription filled
- What symptoms to watch for
- Who to call if something does not feel right
- What medications you must take, how and when to take them, and what are some of the possible side effects
- What foods you should eat and not eat
- When you can return to your normal activities (work, school, exercise, driving)
- The names and numbers of appropriate community services
- What follow-up appointments you will need and who will make them

These discussions are important, regardless of your age. Talking about these issues will help you and your caregivers plan for the future:

- Discuss your wishes around medical treatment should your health situation change
- Complete Power of Attorney (POA) papers and advanced care directives and show your caregivers where these are located
- Discuss where you would like to live should your needs change

## Your care team

There are many highly-skilled professionals involved in your care. The inter-professional team may include:

- Doctors
- Physician Assistants
- Dietitians
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Physiotherapists
- Recreation Therapists
- Technicians and Technologists
- Logistics Attendants
- Social Workers
- Food Services staff
- Environmental Services (housekeeping) staff
- Nurses (Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses)
- Discharge Planners
- Occupational Therapists
- Respiratory Therapists
- Rehabilitation Assistants
- Pharmacists
- Patient Services Clerks
- Patient Care Assistants (PCA)
- Critical Care Outreach Team (CCOT)
- Spiritual Care

RVH plays an important role in training future doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Each year more than 1,100 students gather knowledge and experience at RVH. During your stay you may be seen by students from a variety of healthcare fields including medicine and nursing.

All clinical trainees are always supervised by a physician or staff member who will ensure your safety is a priority.

## Keeping you safe

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### Call bells (Connecting Care)

If you need assistance, please use the call bell beside or on your bed. A staff member will answer your call as soon as possible.

### Fire safety

RVH has a state-of-the-art fire alarm system that provides the exact location for any smoke or fire situation within the facility. We have designated 'first responders' who attend all fire situations to lead the emergency response and ensure the safety of all. When you hear the fire alarm, it will always be followed by an overhead announcement of "Code Red" and the fire's location. In the event of a Code Red, the doors of patient rooms will be closed to create a fire separation and the lights will be turned on. Please remain in your area. Further instruction will be provided if an area of the building needs to be evacuated.

### Hand hygiene

Cleaning your hands is the simplest and most effective way to reduce the risk of getting an infection or passing germs to others. At RVH, we audit the hand hygiene compliance of our staff and physicians and post the information at entrances of the health centre, in common areas and on units/departments.

It is important that all members of your care team wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub. Don't hesitate to ask members of your care team, 'have you washed your hands?'

In an effort to keep yourself safe, please remember to wash your hands after using the washroom and before you eat. Please ask a staff member for assistance if required.

### Infection prevention and control

RVH has Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) practitioners that work closely with your care team to ensure your care is as safe as possible.



When you register as a patient, you will be asked if you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, vomiting or diarrhea. You will also be asked if you have ever had or come in contact with infections such as Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) and Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL), Carbapenemase Producing Organism (CPO) or *Candida Auris*. This helps your care team place patients in the appropriate rooms and ensure that we take precautions to decrease the risk of spreading infections throughout the health centre.

In the event that you are experiencing symptoms, you may be placed on “precautions” (usually indicated by a sign posted on the patient room door that shows the procedures which are followed when visiting this patient). This means that your care team, family and friends must wear personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, gown, mask, visor) when in your room. These precautions help protect you and others from passing on infections.

IPAC practitioners are available to speak with you and your family if you have questions about infection control or being on precautions. They can also provide you with resources and more information. We invite you to also watch the brief information video on your bedside entertainment system free of charge.

## Preventing falls

When you are admitted to RVH, your care team will assess your risk of falling and what precautions need to be put in place to keep you safe. Falls can be caused by a variety of factors including walking or balance problems, some diseases (arthritis, osteoporosis), mental changes such as confusion or dementia, dizziness, change in position, medications and general weakness.

Here are some helpful tips to reduce your risk of falling:

- Always have your call bell within reach in case you need it
- Ask for a light to be left on at night
- Ask and wait for help when getting out of bed. Most falls happen when patients try to leave their bed on their own
- Wipe up spills right away or ask for help if you are unable
- Ask for the brakes to be activated for any furniture that has wheels
- Don't lean on the bedside tables as they are on wheels and will slide
- Arrange furniture in your room so walking pathways are clear (ask for assistance as necessary)
- Make sure your shoes fit properly and are non-slip. If you do not have any with you, please ask for a pair of non-slip socks
- Use a walker or cane if required (and have it checked for safety if you have concerns)
- Keep your room free of clutter
- Slow down and take your time when moving about your room
- Change positions slowly and take your time getting up
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist about side effects or activity restrictions related to your medications
- Keep your eyeglasses within reach and wear them when needed
- Wear your hearing aids
- Get up and move everyday

## Security

Security operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure a healthy, safe environment for all patients, staff and visitors. Patient and visitors are encouraged to report any suspicious persons/vehicles, acts of theft, damage or unwanted behaviours to Security by dialing '0'.

## Staff identification

All RVH staff, physicians, volunteers, and students wear an identification badge that provides you with their first name, position and photo identification. Please feel free to question any person providing care that is not displaying their photo identification badge on the left side of their chest/shoulder.

## Violence and harassment

RVH has zero tolerance for violence and harassment. The health centre is a place of compassion, healing and respect. Any form of violence is unacceptable, including verbal abuse, a threat to cause physical injury, and physical or sexual assault. RVH will take appropriate measures in situations of abuse, threats, aggression or violence including asking individuals to leave the premises or contacting police. As a reminder to patients and visitors of our zero tolerance approach to violence and harassment, you may see posters with this messaging throughout the health centre.

## Services

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### ABMs

Automated banking machines (ABMs) are located in the:

- Main lobby
- Rotary Place lobby
- Emergency department
- Atrium entrance
- Simcoe entrance, near the vendor Food Court

### Accessibility

RVH offers many accessibility features for patients and visitors, including:

- Accessible parking in the Main, Emergency, Simcoe and Atrium parking lots
- Pathways and sidewalks include painted curb cuts, ramps with handrails, and level finishes where roads meet sidewalks
- Public entrances are all equipped with automated or power operators
- Public washrooms are accessible
- Reception desks, greeting stations in public areas have accessible counters
- Elevators are equipped with audible notice, tactile and braille operation buttons
- The Volunteer Information Desk at the Main, Simcoe and Atrium entrances will assist with mobility needs upon request
- Hearing Loss Communication Toolkits, translation and interpretation (i.e. sign language) services are available by contacting Locating (dial '0') – see page 21 for further details
- The building's fire alarm system is both audible and visual
- RVH welcomes the use of service animals

### Accommodation nearby

There are many options for accommodation in hotels around Barrie. The closest, within walking distance of RVH, is the Georgian College Residence and Conference Centre. This accommodation is available during the summer months only (May through August). It is located a five minute walk from RVH. For more information, please call 705-722-5190.

Rotary House, located on RVH property within Rotary Place (see map on page 10), is a hotel-like accommodation available to outpatients of the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre. For more information, please contact 705-739-5662.

A number of area hotels offer discounts to families with a loved one in hospital. Ask when you call if they have an RVH discount.

RVH in no way endorses or recommends any of the accommodations listed below. This is purely for informational purposes.

- Horseshoe Resort - 1101 Horseshoe Valley Drive West. 1-800-461-5627.  
Use reference Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
- Quality Inn Barrie - 55 Hart Drive, Barrie. 705-734-9500
- Best Western Royal Oak Inn - 35 Hart Drive, Barrie 705-721-4848
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites - 506 Bryne Drive, Barrie 705-725-1002
- Travelodge, Barrie on Bayfield - 300 Bayfield Street, Barrie 705-722-4466

## Best wishes

The Volunteer Resources department is pleased to offer a message delivery service to inpatients. This is an ideal way for loved ones to send get well wishes to a patient at RVH. They can send a supportive message by email, through the RVH website, which will be printed and hand-delivered to patients.

## Cell phones

The use of cell phones is permitted throughout most areas of the health centre. RVH does reserve the right to request a cell phone be turned off or restrict the use particularly in sensitive areas. You may be asked to leave the area if it is disruptive. If you are sharing a room, please ensure patients and families are considerate of each other.

## Flowers and balloons

Flowers delivered to RVH will be brought to patients' rooms where allowed. Please confirm with nursing staff prior to sending/bringing flowers to a patient. Flowers may also be purchased at Victoria's Gift Shop (Level 2, near the Atrium entrance – see page 12). Latex balloons are not permitted at RVH as they are a risk to people with allergies.





## Food vendors

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### **Food Court**

The food court is located on Level 1 in the Atrium.

### **Subway**

Mon – Wed: 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Thurs – Fri: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Weekends: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

705-728-9090 ext. 44441

Email – [jinalpatelalarsa@gmail.com](mailto:jinalpatelalarsa@gmail.com)

### **Tim Hortons**

7 days a week: 5 a.m. – 11 p.m.

705-728-9090 ext. 44440

Email – [johnny.keys@rogers.com](mailto:johnny.keys@rogers.com)

### **Gino's Pizza & Wing Machine**

7 days a week: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

705-728-9090 ext. 44444

Email – [shyam599@yahoo.com](mailto:shyam599@yahoo.com)

## Main Lobby

### Café Royale

- Operated by the RVH Auxiliary, Café Royale offers hot and cold beverages, snacks, along with sandwiches and light meals
- Catering also available
- Located near the Main entrance

Proceeds from the Café support patient care at RVH

#### Hours of operation

- Mon – Fri: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Email: [caferoyale@rvh.on.ca](mailto:caferoyale@rvh.on.ca)
- Phone: 705-728-9090 ext. 42433



## Health library

RVH has a consumer health and medical library located in the Atrium area of Level 2 (please see map on page 13). It is open to patients, families, physicians, staff and volunteers, who may use the services and borrow materials. Photo ID is required to borrow library materials.

In addition to offering free internet access, paperbacks, audio books, large print books, children's books, pamphlets and health information, the library can also assist with printing, copying and faxing on a fee-for-service basis.

The library is open 9:30 a.m. to 4p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and can be reached at 705-728-9090 ext. 42631.

## Hearing impaired services and language interpretation

RVH is committed to effective communication between patients, their loved ones and their care teams.

RVH can access local sign language interpreter services to help hearing impaired clients. We can also access an 'over-the-phone' interpretation service - 24 hours a day, seven days a week - which is available for all patients and their families. To arrange for either of these services, please contact Locating by dialing '0' on a patient room phone (free of charge). If you have a hearing impairment you can request a package from your care provider that will assist with communication during your stay. During weekends, holidays and after hours, Ontario Interpreting Services can be reached at 1-866-518-0000.

## Lost and found

Patients and visitors may call Locating by dialing '0' from any RVH phone to inquire about or report any lost articles.

## Mail delivery

Incoming mail is delivered to patients on a regular basis (several times per week, if not daily). Please ask friends and relatives to address your mail as follows:

Your Full Name Unit, Room Number

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre 201 Georgian Drive

Barrie, ON L4M 6M2

Stamps can be purchased at Victoria's Gift Shop (Level 2 near Atrium entrance). Any mail that arrives at RVH after you leave the health centre will be returned to the sender.

## Patient food

Patient Food Services (PFS) is an important part of your healthcare team.

PFS is a team of highly qualified culinary staff who take pleasure in preparing fresh and tasty menu items to nourish and feed your recovery process.

Our meals are prepared fresh daily here at RVH. We have a fully operational kitchen.



Upon admission your doctor will order a diet best suited to your needs. Any food allergies are documented at that time. Our house menu selections are determined by your diet order. We offer all patients the opportunity to tell us what your meal preferences are. Once you have been admitted, you will receive a Meal Preference Sheet. Simply fill it out and leave it on your tray. Our staff will ensure it is returned to Patient Food Services. Our staff provide friendly and positive encouragement during your stay. You may provide feedback to our team at any time.

### Meal Service Times

Our daily patient meal service times are:

- Breakfast: 7:30 – 9 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Dinner: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Upon discharge, “Meals To Go” - our delicious, nutritious home-cooked frozen meal line - is available to purchase. As well, “Supplements To Go” offers a wide selection of commercial prepared supplements at competitive pricing. For more information or to order simply call Patient Food Services at extension 44428.



## Retail

### Victoria's Gift Shop

- Located on Level 2 by the Atrium entrance
- Proceeds from the gift shop support patient care at RVH

Hours of operation

- Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Email: [giftshop@rvh.on.ca](mailto:giftshop@rvh.on.ca)
- Ext. 42431

### PureHealth Pharmacy

- Located next to the Emergency department (ED) under the ED canopy (northwest corner of the building)
- Products and services include: specialty medication, home delivery service, extensive Home Healthcare for purchase or rental, patient education sessions, medication checks, annual home visits by a pharmacist, online access to prescriptions with ability to request refills online

Hours of operation

- Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Sat – Sun, Holidays: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Open 365 days a year
- Phone: (705) 797-3070
- Email: [info@purehealthpharmacy.com](mailto:info@purehealthpharmacy.com)



## Volunteer Resources

RVH volunteers – or the ‘Blue Brigade’ as we affectionately call them -- are very important team members who work together with staff and physicians to provide the best care possible to our patients. They can be easily identified by the blue vests they wear. RVH's 500 volunteers add to our collective ability to connect with you and ensure that every day we Make each life better. Together.

Would you like to give back to your community while at the same time being part of a dynamic committed team? Consider volunteering at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre. Please call 705-739-5650 for more information.



## Spiritual care

RVH's Spiritual Care Services provide spiritual, religious, and emotional care for patients and their families while at RVH. We can also assist with access to spiritual support from diverse faith communities. Spiritual Care can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week by contacting Locating (dial '0') or through a member of your care team.

The Spiritual Care Department is located on Level 1 and adjacent to the Atrium elevators. Here we also have a Spiritual Care Centre available as a quiet place for prayer, reflection and meditation where people of all faith backgrounds and spiritualities are welcome.

## Bedside television and telephone

The terminal at your bedside allows you access to television, telephone, internet and radio. You are able to call anywhere in North America, enjoy your favorite television shows, browse the internet or listen to the radio all from the comfort of your bed.

This system can be purchased at the bedside terminal with a Visa, Mastercard or debit card. Services can be purchased for 1 day, 3 days, 7 days or 30 days.

## Vending machines

Vending machines containing snacks and drinks are situated throughout the health centre:

- Level 1 – Simcoe entrance (just off Food Court)
- Level 2 – Atrium entrance
- Level 2 – Emergency entrance
- Level 2 – Surg 1 Overflow
- Level 2 - southeast Atrium near Pro Resp
- Level 3 – Specialized Seniors Care, Cancer & Palliative Unit
- Level 4 – Birthing Unit entrance, Surgery 3 Unit, Cardiac & Renal Unit
- Rotary Place - basement level

## Wi-Fi

RVH offers free Wi-Fi for patients and visitors. To use Wi-Fi, you will need your own Wi-Fi enabled device such as a mobile phone, tablet or laptop. To access free Wi-Fi, select RVH\_Guest\_Wi-Fi from your list of available networks. If you don't have a device, internet is still available for a daily fee on the bedside entertainment system.

## Leaving RVH

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### Discharge information/instructions

Throughout your stay at RVH, your care team will discuss your estimated date of discharge with you and your loved ones. Ideally, we like to provide you with this date within the first 24 hours of your admission to hospital. Please ensure you have a friend or family member available to pick you up on your discharge date by 9 a.m.

### Supporting you in your return home

Planning for your return home begins as soon as a patient is admitted to the health centre. Throughout your stay at RVH, your care team will speak with you about a plan for discharge and the support you may need once you return home. Members of your care team may arrange a meeting with you and your loved ones to discuss your needs once you return home.

There are in-home supports available for individuals who need care and support in order to leave RVH and continue their recovery at home, or are awaiting transfer to a long term care facility.

Working together to support you:

- Extensive planning occurs between RVH and providers of community services and in-home supports
- Home and community care case managers, work together with your RVH care team, and are specialists in planning for in-home supports such as nursing and personal care assistance
- We will support you in decision-making about long-term care, so that you are confident and fully informed in your choices
- RVH works with other community partners to ensure other needs will be met once you are home, such as cooking/meals, housekeeping and transportation, while you await a vacancy in a long-term care facility
- If you were already receiving services and supports before this recent hospital visit, your care team will work with you, your loved ones and caregivers to ensure your services and supports continue and are adjusted to meet your current needs

For more information on home and community care please visit [healthcareathome.ca/nsm](http://healthcareathome.ca/nsm) or contact the office at 1-888-721-2222 Ext. 6100.

## Home First

RVH embraces the Home First philosophy which means making every effort to support patients in their safe return home to continue their recovery. When you no longer need RVH's specialized, acute services, your ongoing needs and recovery are best met at home where you are more comfortable and will recover more quickly. Your care team will work with you and your family to identify the supports you need and will make sure all necessary services are in place for you as soon as you are ready to go home. This could include nursing, a personal support worker, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, a social worker, a dietitian, a speech pathologist, respiratory therapy, medical supplies, and equipment and care coordination.

## Cashier Office and bill payments

During your stay, you may incur some additional costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or other insurance such as crutches, casts, ambulances, etc. When this occurs, RVH will keep track of the charges and send you an invoice five days after you are discharged. Usually, these charges are put on the credit card you provided on the Inpatient Responsibility Form at the time of admission.

Accounts are due when you receive the invoice from RVH. Payments can be made at our Cashier Office located inside the Main entrance (beside Café Royale - see page 14 for map). Cashier hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For your convenience, payments can also be made:

- At most banking institutions in person or online
- By mailing a cheque or money order to RVH made payable to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
- Through the RVH website - [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca) - click on "Pay a Bill"
- Over the phone by calling 705-728-9090 ext. 42139 during business hours (Visa, Visa Debit, MasterCard, American Express)
- In one of two drop boxes - located just inside the Main entrance beside the front doors (across from volunteer desk) and in the Emergency department located in Minor Exam (beside the interprofessional station)

## Patient transportation and taxis

Patients are responsible for arranging their transportation home from RVH. If you can be transported safely in a car, RVH recommends that you plan a ride home with family or friends. If a loved one is not available to drive you, a taxi service can be called by the Volunteer Information Desk at either the Main, Simcoe or Atrium entrances. If you require transportation home by a private patient transfer service (because you are in a wheelchair or stretcher), RVH can help arrange it. The cost is the responsibility of the patient. Some medical insurance will cover some or all of the cost of a patient transfer service.

RVH will pay for transportation when an appointment related to ongoing inpatient medical care is at a location other than RVH, for instance, at another hospital.

Patients can also contact Home at Last – a free service for seniors providing help with patient transitions from the hospital to home – at 705-737-5044 ext. 223.

Once transportation home has been arranged, please let a member of your care know your plans.

## Post care phone calls

After you leave the health centre, you will receive a phone call from RVH within 48-72 hours to ask you a few questions about your stay, as well as your recovery. The purpose of these calls is to check in on how you are doing during your recovery at home, ensure you've contacted the pharmacy for your medication needs, have made your follow-up appointments and are managing well at home.

## Donations contribute to your care

Over 5,000 people annually contribute to your care. If you are one of these generous supporters – thank you. We are committed to working with donors to make a lasting difference to our patients. And what a difference it can make. By funding the medical equipment used in every part of our health centre – Surgery, the Emergency department, Imaging, Cardiac, the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre, the ICU and the Newborn ICU - donations touch every patient.

Thanks to ongoing community support RVH has recently added more services:

### **Simcoe Muskoka Regional Heart Program**

Advanced cardiac care is now available in North Simcoe Muskoka, ensuring that heart patients have the same quick access to lifesaving heart services as people throughout the rest of Ontario.

Services provided are based on a carefully structured ramp-up beginning with angiograms and in the future angioplasty. As we continue to gain experience and work with our emergency service partners across the region, we will provide services to those patients being transported from further away. This phase-in approach ensures patients throughout the region receive safe, high quality care.

### **Simcoe Muskoka Regional Child and Youth Mental Health Program**

The Child and Youth Mental Health Inpatient Unit provides critically needed acute mental health services for the youth in our community. This child-friendly area provides eight beds and activity spaces, as well as counselling and education areas for children up to the age of eighteen.

### **Women's Cancer Services**

RVH is now able to provide comprehensive cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment for women with gynecological cancer (ovarian and cervical). Currently women must travel outside the area for some aspects of this care.

### **Equipment**

Medical technology is essential for high quality health care. Virtually every aspect of treatment requires innovation and all technology requires updating, as new advancements are discovered. When it comes to our health we should expect great tools in great hands. The provincial government does provide operating costs, but hospitals must pay 100 per cent of the cost of upgrading, replacing and expanding equipment.

### **Research & Education**

Continually improving care requires innovation and support for our RVH caregivers to conduct research. As RVH continues to attract the brightest and best in many fields, support for their research and publication efforts is our commitment to providing best patient care.

Donations will continue to support these important programs.

## Help Make each life better. Together.

We'd be happy to help you make a donation. Please visit our office beside the Volunteer Information Desk at the Main entrance, call 705-739-5600, or visit our website at [foundation.rvh.on.ca](http://foundation.rvh.on.ca). Donations can also be mailed to:

RVH Foundation, 201 Georgian Dr., Barrie, ON, L4M 6M2

Charitable Registration: 125249185 RR0001



## MY CARE Hero

Patients are the centre of everything we do at RVH and our MY CARE philosophy puts patients and their families first. Always. Everyday. Without exception.

This philosophy inspires our MY CARE Heroes!

A MY CARE Hero is a physician, staff member, volunteer or department that provides excellent care to each patient while also supporting that patients' family throughout their time with RVH.

Making a donation to honour your MY CARE Hero is an excellent way to say thank you and recognize them for the care you received. Your gift will support the equipment and services at RVH that your MY CARE Hero uses every day to provide care to people throughout our region.

When you thank a MY CARE Hero with a donation, a Foundation staff member will recognize the physician, staff member, volunteer or department with a card letting them know that their dedication to care has been appreciated!

To thank a MY CARE Hero:

- Phone - 705-739-5600
- Online - [foundation.rvh.on.ca/supporting-rvh/my-care-hero](http://foundation.rvh.on.ca/supporting-rvh/my-care-hero)
- By mail – RVH Foundation, 201 Georgian Drive, Barrie, ON L4M 6M2
- In person - visit the Foundation office in RVH's Main entrance

## Frequently called numbers

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### The main phone numbers for RVH are:

Locating: 705-728-9802

Automated Attendant: 705-728-9090

Patient Line 705-739-5666

### Outpatient areas:

Benign Hematology Clinic – ext.23200

Breast Imaging – ext. 43500

Cardio Respiratory – ext. 46230

Child and Youth Mental Health Outpatient Program & Acute Outpatient Services – ext. 47235

Child and Youth Treatment Clinic – ext. 47463

Diagnostic Imaging – ext. 43500

Diagnostic Imaging (general inquiries) – ext. 43500

Emergency department (main) – ext. 46611

Fracture Treatment Clinic – ext. 47450

Hemodialysis – ext. 24500 (offsite clinic) ext. 24530 (onsite)

Kidney Care Clinic – ext. 24600

Mental Health Outpatient – ext. 47210

Rehabilitation/Physio – ext. 47310

Rizzardo Clinic – ext. 25111

Same Day Surgery – ext. 46740

Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program – ext. 43333

Sleep Lab – ext. 46238

Surgery Treatment Clinic – ext. 47454

Withdrawal Management (Wellington St.) – ext. 24100

## Inpatient units:

Adult Mental Health Inpatient – ext. 47250  
Birthing Unit – ext. 47160  
Cancer & Palliative Inpatient – ext. 43311  
Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) – ext. 47660  
Cardiac Intervention Unit (CIU) - ext. 47888  
Cardiac Renal – ext. 46111  
Child and Youth Inpatient – ext. 46460  
Child and Youth Mental Health Inpatient – ext. 47222  
Integrated Stroke and Rehabilitation Inpatient – ext. 47350  
Intensive Care Unit (ICU) – ext. 47620  
Medicine Inpatient – ext. 46244  
Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) – ext. 47130  
Obstetrics – ext. 47140  
Pandemic Response Unit (PRU) – ext. 44922  
Respiratory Inpatient – ext. 48220  
Specialized Seniors Care – ext. 47330  
Surge 1 Overflow – ext. 46680  
Surgery 2 Inpatient – ext. 46888  
Surgery 3 Inpatient – ext. 46440  
Transitional Care Unit – ext. 48266

## Other:

Locating – ext. 0  
Health Records – ext. 42505  
Health Records Fax – 705-728-0982  
my health care Patient Portal Support Team – 705-797-2955  
Patient and Family Experience Office – ext. 44510  
Direct CEO line – ext. 41050