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Sixteen thousand square metres to strengthen public healthcare

The opening of the new facilities at the Hospital del Mar, located in C/ Gas, mean better quality healthcare for residents in the districts of Sant Martí and Ciutat Vella. The four-floor building (two floors below ground and two above) has a total surface area of 15,877 square metres and means all oncology services are now together in one place, while various outpatient services also now have more space and are better-equipped. The building is already handling general medical emergencies and will also deal with obstetrical and gynaecological emergencies as from September.

The construction of the building is the first of three stages of a project to extend and remodel the [Hospital del Mar](#) and has long been called for by professionals at the hospital and local residents alike. The new premises form part of a project started in 2006 which was halted in 2010 due to the crisis and finally resumed again in 2015. “As Mayor, citizen and user at the centre, I’m very happy to be able to see the culmination of a project which has been nine years coming”, explained the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, during the inauguration of the building.

The new facilities include the latest in technology and offer services which improve the quality of healthcare for local residents. “From a municipal perspective we’ve made a commitment to consolidating and defending public health”, noted Colau. The Mayor also explained that Sant Martí and Ciutat Vella both have neighbourhoods with some of the worst health indicators in the city and as a result a population which is very vulnerable. “This hospital is an emblem for Barcelona and a basic tool in the fight against territorial inequality in health”, she added.

The extra space at the hospital involved an investment of 76 million euros, 34 million coming from Barcelona City Council.

Gynaecology and obstetrics

The building includes an area of 1,200 square metres designed to handle obstetrics and gynaecology emergencies, and also including delivery rooms and two operating rooms specialising in endoscopic procedures. One of the operating rooms has a micro accelerator for intraoperative radiotherapy, allowing an integrated perspective for oncological processes. Improvements have also been made to accommodate non-medical processes for births, such as dilation in water.

Oncology

Up until now some residents in the districts of Ciutat Vella and Sant Martí had to be transferred to the Hospital de l’Esperança, in the neighbourhood of La Salut, in Gràcia, to receive oncological care. The new building means the unification of oncological services at the Hospital del Mar and encompasses surgery, radiology and diagnostic imaging, radiotherapy, early detection programmes and more.

Ada Colau: "L'Hospital del Mar és un emblema d'equi...



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Outpatient care

The new building houses outpatient care for oncology, haematology and pneumology, as well as a multi-purpose area for patients receiving services relating to cardiology, digestive systems, endocrinology, nephrology, neurology and rheumatology. These services were previously housed in pre-fabricated modules in different areas of the hospital and now have more spaces, natural light and mobile compartments to ensure privacy.

Emergencies

The project means the Hospital del Mar now has a total area of **4,000 square metres set aside to handle emergencies**, as well as 40 new cubicles for emergency treatment and five more for critical care of a highly complex nature. The new accident and emergency department is in the basement of the new building and connects with the previous department, which is now used for paediatrics, psychiatry, surgery and traumatology. The new space set aside for emergencies also includes two selection areas and six consultation rooms for straightforward and simple emergencies.