Lakeland HealthCare has completed an expansion of the Surgery Department at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph.

The Surgery Department is the most recently completed element of Lakeland’s master facilities plan, which envisioned a healing environment that incorporates elements of nature with a home-like atmosphere. The goal of the plan was to enhance every aspect of the healing process to improve patient outcomes.

The conclusion of the new Surgery Department expansion project follows the opening of the new four-story patient addition at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, in March. Work continues on the final phases of the expansion of the St. Joseph Emergency Department, set for completion in November.

The Surgery Department project added more than 3,000 square feet of space and created a new Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), family waiting area, and 16 private rooms for patients’ surgical preparation and recovery. Similar to the new addition at the St. Joseph campus, the Surgery Department’s space incorporates evidence-based design principles for efficiency, patient comfort, safety, and for a health and healing atmosphere. A new nurses’ station is centrally located in the department so that nurses can quickly access patient rooms and spend more time caring for patients, increasing efficiency. The design allows for generous use of windows and skylights for natural light in the PACU and the patient rooms.

Each patient room provides a significantly larger space for patients and surgery team members, with unique features to enhance healing. Glass doors with curtains reduce noise and increase privacy for patients. The recovery rooms are similar to the new patient rooms, featuring amenities such as flat screen televisions.

A caregiver zone, in the room, allows surgery staff members to access the technology needed for patient charting, without leaving the patient’s room.

The Surgery Department’s improvements enhance the hospital experience not only for patients, but also for their family members. For outpatient procedures, surgery team members provide patients with a private room prior to and following the surgery, which helps family members more easily locate loved ones and their caregivers. To enhance communication, the Surgery team has introduced a new system that allows family members to walk anywhere on the St. Joseph campus and be notified via a portable pager when a patient is out of the operating room or if the surgeon needs to speak with a family member.

“The patient’s first and last impressions of the Surgery Department, as well as each family member’s experience, make a significant impact on patient satisfaction,” said Angela Kacynski, Director of Perioperative Services, Lakeland HealthCare. “As we have opened new sections of the department, we have received very positive feedback from patients, and our patient satisfaction scores continue to rise.”

For more information about the Surgery Department at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, call (269) 983-4432, or visit www.lakelandhealth.org.