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Hospital lab expansion in Williston shows positive trend is continuing there



Chris Goodale (looking into the machine), a customer service engineer with Siemens completes installation of one of the many new machines, as Williston Regional General Hospital Clinical Laboratory Administrator Arceli Encienzo (left in picture) stands next to this Centaur XP System - which is used for testing for hepatitis, HIV and tumor/cancer markers.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 11, 2016 @ 3:17 p.m.

WILLISTON – A significant expansion of personnel and equipment at the labs in Regional General Hospital of Williston, 125 S.W. Seventh St. is among the indications of the positive trend that started a couple of years ago is continuing.

Going into the fourth quarter of 2016, RGH shows a strong move toward carrying on in its forward momentum.

On Sept. 30, RGH Clinical Laboratory Administrator Arceli L. Encienzo provided a one-hour tour of the existing lab and a walk-into of an area being revamped literally from top to bottom -- from the panels on the ceiling to the tiles on the floor -- and everything in between, including new equipment.

The new separate lab section will be for high complexity testing, which will follow tests after those toxicology tests are completed in one of the other RGH labs to provide toxicology confirmation.

Encienzo, who is also a technical consultant and general laboratory supervisor, has been in

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the RGH lab through the past few owners.

The current owner, she said, is making history with what is happening at RGH now and going into the future. Encienzo is extremely pleased with the progress made during the past couple of years and she looks forward to the future.

Soon, even the few types of tests that currently are being sent from RGH to Lab Corps or Quest Diagnostics will not be sent anymore, Encienzo said, because the labs at RGH will be able to perform those tests too.

She anticipates the hospital laboratory will be able to complete 500 to 1,000 tests a day. And this is no pipe dream or just a promise, there is tangible proof from the new machinery in place as of late last month.

One gauge of growth is the number of employees in the lab section of RGH now. A couple of years ago, there were five employees in the lab. Now Encienzo oversees 27 lab workers, she said.

There are still students who are having their clinical lessons here as they learn about clinical medical technology. The name of the college is Marion Technical College. So, not only are there new dimensions in the lab, but former best management practices continue as well.

Following are pictures and some text about what the machines can test for:



Here are two Tosoh 2000 ST immunoassay machines that are used for testing for hormone health.

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Bill West (left) and Scott Bell of Sysmex stand near two Sysmex XN2000 machines that are used for conducting a complete blood count test. The men had just completed installation when this photo was taken.



The Tosoh G8 is seen here. It is a high performance liquid chromatography for hemoglobin A1C testing. This is the gold standard of machines of its type.

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RGH Supervisor of Toxicology Screening Lab Jeff Johnson stand next to one of the two Beckman AU680 machines that is used to find overall metabolic health, heart health, therapeutic drug levels and for nutritional health testing. The Beckman AU680 is also for screening 26 drugs catering to pain management clinics.

Other machines in the lab and what they can do include:

- * ACL Elite and ACL Elite Pro - for heparin and Coumadin testing.
- * Clinitek Status and Clinitek Advantus - for urinalysis testing.
- * LC-MS (thermo fisher brand) Endura and Quantiva - this is liquid chromatography mass spectrophotometry method. This is a highly complex and sensitive instrument for drug testing confirmation. This analytical chemistry technique is geared towards separation, general detection and potential identification of particular masses in the presence of other chemicals.
- * GeneXpert System - molecular testing for critical infectious diseases, women's sexual health, and other health-associated infections.
- * And the Pharmacogenomics PGX, to test for how drugs metabolize differently in each individual.