

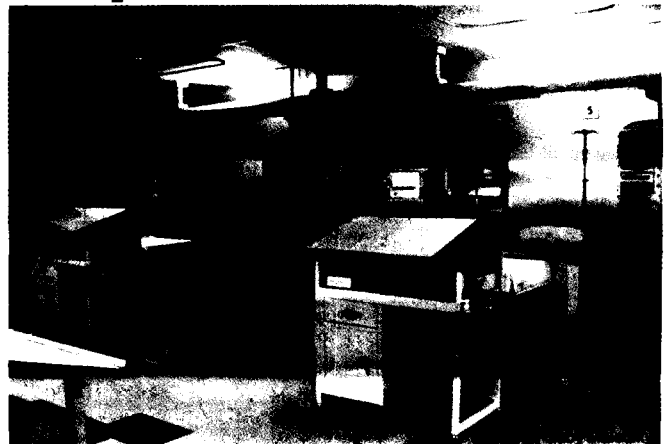
June 2007

Linksfield Hospital Opens New ICU

Gauteng's newest intensive care unit (ICU) was officially opened at Netcare Linksfield Hospital in Johannesburg last month. The new R17.8m 25-bed ICU replaces the hospital's previous 14-bed unit.

"The growing demands of the community surrounding Netcare Linksfield Hospital and an increase in the utilisation of its facilities have prompted the complete relocation and rebuilding of a new ICU," said Netcare CEO, Dr Richard Friedland. "The result is a brand new, state-of-the-art, expanded ICU and the highest number of isolation beds (seven) in the entire Netcare Group," he said.

Dr Friedland said that the new unit had been designed with multiple advances in technology in mind and will accommodate the international best practices in infection control. A fully computerised patient information management system has been installed. The unit will also host two dedicated paediatric intensive care beds. According to Friedland the new ICU is only the beginning of a far wider and much larger capital expenditure project at the hospital. In the next few months the interior of the hospital will be revamped and parts of the gardens redesigned. In addition, an application has been made to the Gauteng Department of Health to build a fully operational cathlab, which



Two of the beds in the new 25 bed ICU at Netcare Linksfield Hospital. The equipment that has been installed in the new ICU is valued at approximately R10 million.

will provide patients and their cardiologists with the on-site option of minimally invasive cardiac intervention. There are also plans to upgrade the accident and emergency unit, which is one of the busiest in the city, attending to more than 2000 emergency patients per month.

