



## *AN OVERVIEW*

Harborview Medical Center is owned by the residents of King County, governed by a board of trustees appointed by the King County Council, and managed by the University of Washington. The medical center is licensed for 411 beds and currently operates 330 beds. The Long Range Capital Improvement Project now under development will substantially expand Harborview's ability to serve patients.

One of two primary teaching hospitals of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Harborview is a major regional health care facility of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The medical center's mission is to provide exemplary care, teaching, research and community service.

Harborview does not receive operating support from King County, but county taxpayers provide Harborview with funds for its major construction projects. Harborview's operations are dependent on reimbursement from state agencies, the federal government, and third-party insurance companies:

- 46 percent of patients are funded by state and federal Medicaid programs
- 20 percent receive Medicare
- 28 percent are covered by private insurance
- 6 percent are self-pay patients or unable to pay

## *SERVICES*

**EMERGENCY/TRAUMA CENTER:** About 80 percent of the more than 10,840 patients hospitalized at Harborview in 1990 were admitted through the Emergency/Trauma Center. The only Level 1 trauma center in Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho, Harborview is ready around-the-clock for any kind of emergency. General surgeons and surgical specialists, anesthesiologists, fully staffed operating rooms and intensive care units, laboratories and other support services are all ready at a moment's notice to aid the critically ill and injured. There were more than 47,000 patient visits to the Emergency/Trauma Center last year.

**BURN CENTER:** One of the largest in the United States, the UW Burn Center at Harborview has cared for more than 5,000 patients since it opened in 1974. More than 500 patients are now admitted annually; about one-third are under 18 years of age. Ninety percent of these patients return to their previous lifestyles within a year of their injuries, thanks to the treatment techniques developed over the past 16 years. The Harborview Burn Center is a regional resource for severely burned residents of Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

**NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY:** Over 1,000 patients are cared for annually at Harborview for head injuries, spinal injuries, brain aneurysms, brain tumors and stroke. Referrals come from throughout Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

**MEDIC 1:** Harborview has been actively involved in the development of Seattle's Medic 1, one of the country's first Medic 1 programs. The paramedic training program, located at Harborview, is responsible for training paramedics throughout the state.

**HARBORVIEW INJURY PREVENTION AND RESEARCH CENTER:** Founded in 1985, the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center (HIPRC) works to develop, apply and evaluate methods of preventing and treating injuries. Major HIPRC programs include expansion of Harborview's Trauma Registry (a data base which tracks treatment and outcomes for injury victims); promotion of bicycle helmet use; and development of an educational program to prevent child pedestrian injuries.

**AIDS:** Harborview is the principal clinical site for the newly designated UW Center for AIDS Research, one of seven such programs in the country. Harborview established its AIDS Clinic in 1985 to provide patient care, teaching, research and leadership for other professionals involved with AIDS.

**AIRLIFT NORTHWEST:** Many patients from throughout Washington and the Northwest come to Harborview by Airlift Northwest's helicopter or fixed-wing jet, which are operated by Harborview, University of Washington Medical Center, Children's Hospital and Medical Center, and Providence Medical Center. Each aircraft is specially equipped and carries a highly trained medical team.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER:** A prototype for other programs nationwide, the Sexual Assault Center was established in 1973 to provide treatment and support services to victims of sexual assault. The Sexual Assault Center handled 2,203 cases in 1990, of which 65 percent involved children 17 and younger. The Eastside Sexual Assault Center for Children, located at Overlake Hospital Medical Center, was established in 1985 to serve sexually abused children in East King County. In 1990, 508 children were treated at the Eastside location. The Eastside Sexual Assault Center is the only physician training site statewide in the field of child sexual assaults.

**REGIONAL EPILEPSY CENTER:** Both inpatients and outpatients with severe seizure disorders are cared for here. Referrals are primarily from the Pacific Northwest, but patients from other areas of the United States and abroad are also referred to this center. The center also maintains an internationally recognized program in epilepsy research.

**HARBORVIEW COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER (HCMHC):** There were 143,273 outpatient visits to this facility last year. The center provides immediate crisis intervention; individual, family and group psychotherapy; day treatment; medications, evaluation and treatment; and consultation and educational services to the community. The HCMHC's intensive Community Support and Treatment Program provides around-the-clock outpatient care to the severely mentally ill who have had repeated involuntary commitments.

**REHABILITATION MEDICINE:** Harborview's unit is a component of the UW Northwest Spinal Cord Injury Center. This facility provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to patients who have suffered head injuries and strokes, as well as spinal cord injuries.

**OUTPATIENT SERVICES:** Harborview offers outpatient specialty and primary care for adults and children in nearly 50 clinics, such as the Arrhythmia Research Clinic, the Northwest Lipid Research Clinic and the Refugee Clinic. Outpatient care is also provided at sites throughout King County in clinics such as the Pioneer Square Clinic, Cedar Hills Rehabilitation Center and the Millionair Club. There were over 273,000 ambulatory visits (exclusive of Emergency Room visits) last year.

**OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM:** Harborview has one of only a few programs in the United States which specializes in diagnosing, treating and researching occupationally related health problems. Staffed by physicians, industrial hygienists and social workers, the Occupational Medicine Program focuses on detecting and treating workers who have been exposed to dusts, asbestos, noise, fumes, glues, paints and radiation. An Environmental Challenge Chamber enables staff to simulate occupational health hazards within a controlled setting.

## ***HISTORY***

Harborview began as the King County welfare hospital in a two-story South Seattle building in 1877. By 1906, the hospital had moved into a new building in Georgetown with room for 225 patient beds.

Another move occurred in 1931, when the center wing of the present hospital was completed, and the King County Hospital's name was changed to Harborview. The south wing was added in 1952 to house the surgical suites and outpatient clinics.

Twenty years later, the first five floors of the north wing, where most inpatients are housed, were completed. Four more floors were added in 1981, including a 40-bed Burn Center and two additional nursing floors.

The hospital has been a physician training site since 1945 when the UW School of Medicine was established. Harborview was the UW's only teaching hospital until 1959 when University Hospital was completed. Today, Harborview continues to be a major teaching site for all UW Health Sciences students.

Full-time clinical department heads were added to Harborview's organizational structure in 1960. Seven years later, the association with the University of Washington was formalized through a management contract which provides for patient care, teaching and research programs at Harborview Medical Center.

Harborview Medical Center  
325 Ninth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 223-3000