

New Pulmonary Testing Equipment Soon Coming to PKIMC

Tuesday, 23 June 2009

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Erik Wander/KMXT

Providence Kodiak Island
Medical Center
will soon be able to offer its patients enhanced diagnostic testing for heart and lung disease, thanks to new pulmonary testing equipment the hospital's respiratory department is set to receive. KMXT's Erik Wander has more.

Providence Kodiak Island
Medical Center
recently acquired a full pulmonary function system. The state-of-the-art diagnostic testing equipment will dramatically enhance the on-island services the hospital's respiratory department provides. The new equipment is currently on its way to Kodiak, and roll-out is anticipated by the end of the month. Scott Ferguson is the Respiratory Therapy Manager at PKIMC.

-- (Ferguson
1 26 sec. "That'll allow our doctors ... American
Heart Association.")

Ferguson said the new
equipment will offer patients painless, non-invasive lung testing. He described
some of its capabilities, providing services previously unavailable in Kodiak.

-- (Ferguson
2 44 sec. "Forms
of lung testing ... more for our
providers.")

Ferguson said the equipment can
measure total volume of air in a patient's lungs as well as air flow or lack
thereof, important indicators in properly diagnosing lung disease.
Another test the hospital hasn't been able to offer until now is what is called
diffusion capacity.

-- (Ferguson
3 26 sec. "The patient's ability to ... lung
tests for our doctors.")

Ferguson,
who moved to Kodiak seven months ago from New England to work in the respiratory
department and manage the hospital's new sleep lab, said he was somewhat surprised
by the prevalence of respiratory problems in Kodiak, given its clean air. But
he said certain environmental and occupational factors can play a role.

-- (Ferguson
4 45 sec. "The fishing industry ... checking
our local fire department.")

Prior to acquiring the new
equipment, the hospital had to send patients needing more advanced lung testing
off-island. Ferguson
said the new equipment should be operational by the end of the month. After a
preliminary testing period, he said it should be ready to test patients within
the first two weeks of July. PKIMC is planning an open house to showcase the
new equipment, but it has yet to announce the date and time.

I'm
Erik Wander.

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