

BACKGROUND

In 2018, Winship Cancer Institute embarked on the creation of a new, larger phase I unit utilizing an integrated facility design (IFD) process. IFD is a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive process focused on creation of an ideal environment for patients, caregivers, researchers, providers and nurses. Patient and staff agreed comfort, safety and functionality needs drive the design of the space.

GOALS

- Project governance established vision for new cutting edge phase I unit
- People using the space, design the space
- Focus on implementing lean quality improvement initiatives



METHODS

- Process mapping, time studies, voice of patient/staff/leadership interviews conducted. Current and future unit volume benchmarking performed.
- Multidisciplinary teams: providers, nurses, research coordinators, pharmacists, patient family advisors, lab, and operations team members gathered.
- Visionary patient care and research conduct processes agreed-upon critical adjacencies laid the foundation for the physical unit design.
- A life size cardboard unit rendering unit rendering was built overnight.



OUTCOMES

- Design of a dedicated phase one research unit focused on integration of excellent patient care and precise research conduct.
- The new unit features 15 private treatment rooms, 4 consult rooms and a 3 chair fast track area.

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Visual controls including a patient tracking board and patient status boards were incorporated as a part of the IFD process. Standard processes embracing lean tenets will guide the ongoing commitment of quality enhancements in the phase I program in the new space.